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VOLUME 15, NUMBER 8 ★ FEBRUARY 21st, 1980 ★ 15th Year of Publishing

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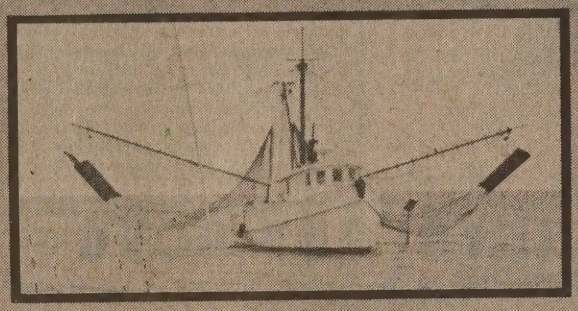

HEARINGS TO BE HELD ON FISH TRAPS AND DRAGGING

(See page 4.)

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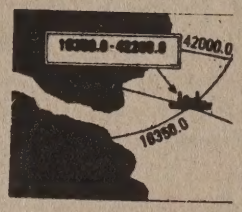

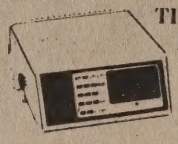

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Flotilla 18-7 of USCG Auxiliary will conduct a 6 lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship Course beginning February 29, 7:30 p.m. at Hampton Bays High School, Argonne Road, Hampton Bays, N.Y., Room 30. Course is open to all adults 16 and over and is given free of charge with a nominal fee for materials.

A 4 lesson New York State Young Boatmen's Course will be given for boys and girls 10-15, on March 12 at

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About the Cover—

A public hearing is being held in the Babylon Town Hall this Saturday at 10AM on proposed legislation that would ban dragging in Great South Bay, fish traps in Montauk and place regulations on gill nets. See the Fighting Chair editorial on page 4 for further details.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **FISHING WEATHER**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons, EDITOR
Fred Golofaro, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
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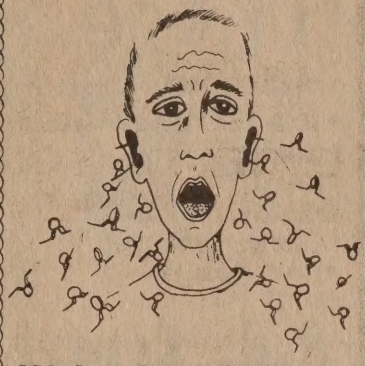

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The Fighting Chair

with Scott Simons

PUBLIC HEARINGS BEING HELD ON DRAGGING IN GREAT SOUTH BAY, FISH TRAPS AND GILL NETS

The public hearing being held this Saturday morning in the Babylon Town Hall will be a turning point as to where the future of saltwater fishing on Long Island lies. If enough sport fishermen show up and make their feelings known to our state legislators, then there is an excellent chance that we will finally be able to stop the unregulated growth of the commercial fishing industry and save what is left of the sport we all love. But if sport fishermen *don't* turn out in big numbers, you may as well look for another sport to enjoy—sport fishing on Long Island will soon be a thing of the past.

The first piece of legislation is a bill (S-4878/A-7012) that would ban dragging in the South Shore bays. It would completely prohibit draggers from working in the Great South Bay from the Wantagh Causeway east to the Smith Point Bridge. This bill would also ban dragging in Moriches Bay and Shinnecock Bay from May 15 to September 15, except between the hours of 4PM and 8AM on weekday nights. No dragging would be allowed on the weekend in either Moriches or Shinnecock Bay. This bill also sets a minimum mesh size of four inches on the nets used, which will allow the smaller fish to escape unharmed. The legislation would become effective immediately after being passed by both houses and signed by the Governor.

The need for this legislation is clear. The dragging of nets behind boats is a very efficient commercial fishing technique, and even a small dragger can have a devastating effect on a local fish population in the confined waters of a bay. Just how efficient these draggers can be is amply demonstrated each fall in the Peconics. Under present law, dragging is prohibited in the Peconic Bays until October 1, so there isn't any problem for the sport fishermen fishing for porgies during the four months of June, July, August and September. But when the draggers arrive on the first of October, it only takes them three or four *days* to completely wipe out the porgies in the bay! Meanwhile, businesses that rely on sport fishermen suffer the consequences, like the Port of Egypt fishing station in Southold.

But the real threat of dragging in our bays is to the fluke and flounder, particularly the latter. Until recently, there wasn't any real commercial market for the blackback flounder due to their small size. So commercial fishermen didn't actively fish for them, and the blackback flounder has primarily been sought after by sport fishermen. Unfortunately, this situation is changing dramatically for the worse since the implementation of the 200-Mile fishing limit. For years, the draggers of both the domestic and foreign fleets have been overfishing the yellowtail flounder stocks to the point where the species may actually be endangered. Under the regulatory powers given to it by the 200-Mile Limit, the National Marine Fisheries Service has been placing quotas on the amount of yellowtail flounder that our domestic fleets can take, which resulted in the closing of the fishery several times last year when the quotas had been filled. These closures, in turn, resulted in a shortage of flounder fillets on the fresh fish market, which is the root of the problem that this legislation addresses.

Yellowtail flounder are a deep water ocean fish that are much larger than the blackback flounder caught in our shallow bays. Because of this and the fact that they can't be caught on hook and line, yellowtail have been sought exclusively by commercial fishermen while sport fishermen concentrated on the blackback. But due to the flounder "shortage," for the first time commercial draggers have cast a discerning eye on our

blackbacks as the prices paid for them in the market have risen. The first sign of this new interest was in 1978 when draggers started working over the blackback flounder in Moriches Bay during the daylight hours, much to the annoyance of anglers fishing from rowboats rented from the dozen or so fishing stations in the area. There has always been a certain amount of dragging in Moriches Bay, but this was always on a small scale by only a few boats that worked primarily at night when there would be little social conflict with sport fishermen. But this status quo changed as the price of blackback went up and more draggers came into the bay and started fishing both day and night.

There were also strong indications this spring that commercial draggers also had designs on the blackback flounder in the Peconics. Draggers were seen all over the bays and even in the smaller creeks, and we received many reports at *The Fisherman* that the flounder fishing became non-existent the day after a dragger worked over an area. There were also several boats gearing up last year to start dragging in Great South Bay for both flounder and fluke, and at least one small dragger started working in the bay this past fall; thus the need for this important piece of legislation. Without it, the commercial fishermen will continue to expand their dragging operations for flounder in our shallow bays and quickly destroy this important spring and fall fishery to the sport fishing industry. Once again we are being asked to pay for the sins of commercial fishermen. Now that they have overfished the yellowtail flounder stock, they want to bail themselves out by overfishing the blackback flounder—regardless of the effect it will have on the quality of sport fishing. Passage of this legislation will be the sport fishermen's way of telling them to "go to hell, fellas!"

There is also a proposal to put an eight inch minimum size limit on flounder that will be discussed at this public hearing. At present, there is an eight inch minimum size limit for commercial catches, but no size limit on sport fishermen. Quite frankly, we don't see any need for this legislation. First off, there isn't any evidence or even an indication that the blackback flounder stocks are in any biological trouble. Secondly, sport fishermen as a rule already release flounder less than eight inches *voluntarily.* This fact is evidenced by our fishing reports each year during the spring flounder run when rowboat stations and open boats will report "half the fish are keepers," etc. Which is not to say that on occasion a flounder less than eight inches will end up in some poor pier fisherman's bucket, or that a small fish or two won't be included in a catch to round out a meal in those areas where the flounder run small. Even if the foregoing wasn't true, there wouldn't be any enforcement of this law in any case. The DEC hasn't been enforcing the sixteen inch minimum size on striped bass due to the lack of funds for enforcement officers, so why burden it with another unenforceable law? At best, an occasional fisherman who doesn't know any better will be caught in a spot check and fined, turning a law abiding citizen into a criminal for no reason. So it's thumbs down on this one in our book until someone gives us a good reason for it.

The second piece of legislation that will be discussed is a proposed bill that will "*prohibit the use of pound or trap nets within one thousand feet of the beach from the easterly jetty of the Lake Montauk breakwater to the Montauk Point Lighthouse.*" This bill is being introduced by State Senator Owen Johnson (4th District) at the request of L.I.F. to prevent a repeat of the incident at Montauk last year when a fish trap was constructed on the famous surf fishing spot known as North Bar in Montauk State Park. It should be noted that the entire stretch of beach covered by this legislation has already been designated and developed for recreational activities by the Town of East Hampton, the County of Suffolk and New York State. The East Hampton Town Beach begins at the east jetty and abuts the boundary of the Suffolk County Park, which in turn runs to the boundary of Montauk Point State Park. The Lighthouse is within Montauk State Park, as was the fish pound trap next to North Bar that created the social conflict between recreational and commercial fishermen in 1979.

Although commercial fishermen consider this to be a "traditional" area for fish pound traps, there hasn't been a trap here since 1963 when the last one was removed *voluntarily* by the owner, and there has not been a significant number in the area since prior to World War II. Since then, the beaches have been developed specifically for the pursuit of recreational pleasure. The construction of fish pound traps along these beaches would directly interefere with these recreational activities in the

(Continued on next page.)

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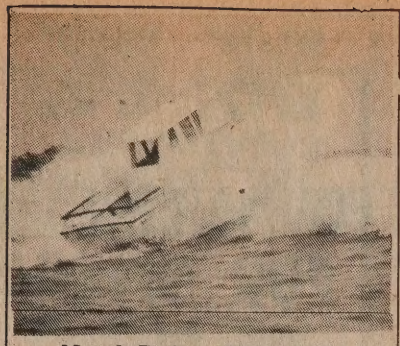

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It should also be noted that this legislation is not "anti-fish trap" in nature, and serves only to restrict their use in a very confined area where they would interfere with other activities. Although there are over 500 fish pound traps in New York State's territorial waters, this is the first time that sport and commercial fishermen have been in social conflict over the location of a fish trap. Recreational fishermen are *not* asking for a prohibition on the use of fish traps with this legislation. In 1979 it would only have affected one fish trap, which had been constructed illegally. As the area has not been utilized by trap fishermen for more than seventeen years by their own choice, they have therefore given up any claims of "traditional rights," which are unrecognized from a legal point of view in any case.

From 1963 to 1979 there was one trap at North Bar and a permit issued for a second at Shagwong Point. This year there is an attempt to renew the permit for the trap in Montauk Point State Park, and there will be permit applications made shortly to the Army Corps of Engineers for as many as three more traps in Suffolk County Park. At the present time, Suffolk County doesn't even have the legal authority to prevent fish pound traps from being constructed on the waters of its beaches. If the number of fish traps is allowed to increase in this manner with legislative regulation, it will only be a short time before the recreational value of the area is completely destroyed. We urge all surf fishermen who have ever fished Montauk to make an extra effort to attend this public hearing so that this bill will get the support that it needs to pass. If we can't stop the commercial fishermen from building fish traps in our state and county parks, we will lose most of the few remaining areas on Long Island where we still have access to beaches that provide good fishing.

The third piece of legislation that will be discussed at the public hearings is a bill (S-4888) that will be a first step towards regulating the use of gill nets. At the present time, there are absolutely no laws or regulations concerning the setting of gill nets in Great South Bay and other areas of Long Island. An unlicensed fourteen-year-old can set an unmarked five thousand foot net across Great South Bay while the weakfish are spawning and nobody could stop him because there isn't a law on the books to prohibit it. Unmarked nets are an extreme hazard to navigation for small boats, having already taken the life of fisherman Thomas Loftus when his boat became entangled in an unmarked gill net and capsized in Great South Bay. In that tragic incident, it should be noted that the owner of the offending gill net has never been identified due to the lack of any law that requires numbered identification of the owner—a situation that this legislation would eliminate. The bill also requires that gill nets "*will be marked at each end with an orange flag at least twelve inches square attached to a mast rising above the surface of the water at least five feet.*" Nets operated after dark must be marked with orange and white reflective tape attached to the mast. In the waters of Great South Bay, gill nets "*shall not exceed twelve hundred feet in length*" and must also "*display surface markers at least every one hundred feet.*" Although this bill would not prohibit the gill netters from massacreing the weakfish when they are spawning in Great South Bay, it's the first necessary step in that direction.

The three bills that we discussed all have an excellent chance of being passed if sport fishermen show up in big numbers at the public hearing being held this Saturday by the New York Senate Subcommittee on the Long Island Marine District. This newly formed Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Owen Johnson, will handle all proposed legislation that has anything to do with marine finfish and fishing. There's no question that

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the commercial fishermen will be out in force at this public hearing to fight *against* this legislation, so it is up to *you* to show up to express your interest and prevent them from being successful. This is your chance to do something positive for your sport rather than just complaining about things. The entire staff of L.I.F. will be on hand and we expect to see you there too! It's on a Saturday morning in February when most people don't work and there is nothing to fish for this time of year—so what's your excuse? Fishing clubs should send a representative to speak on the club's behalf and should also urge all of their membership to attend.

For information and copies of the bills, or to reserve a specific time to speak, call 669-9200. The hearing will be chaired by Senator Johnson, and Senators Pisanni and Trunzo of the Subcommittee will also be in attendance. See you there!

Scott J. Simons

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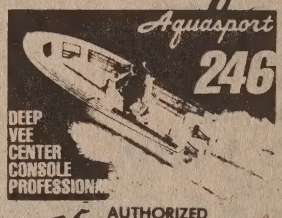

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Southampton Intermediate School, Hampton Road, Southampton, N.Y., 7:30 p.m. Course and materials are free of charge. For further information on these courses, contact: George Galiszewski, 728-0939.

The U.S.C.G. Auxiliary Flotilla 22-06 will ofer a 13-week course in Boating Skills and Seamanship. The instructional areas will cover all aspects of boating.

Commack High School North (Scolar Lane and Townline Rd., Commack, N.Y., each Wednesday beginning February 27, 1980, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. There is a $7.25 fee for Course material and a $5 School District Registration fee.

For additional information call: Commack H.S. Wed. Eves: (516) 493-3627 and/or J. E. Fitzpatrick, (516) 427-9046.

CLUB NEWS

EMPIRE STRIPER ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Empire Striper Association of Rockaway Beach held its Annual Dinner at the Bounty Inn on January 26.

The members and their wives and guests greeted the 1980 officers: Joe and Dick Mele as President and Vice-President; Paul Assenza and Charlie Marquardt as Secretaries and John Judge as Treasurer.

The highlight of the evening was the awarding of trophies for the 1979 season. Some of the major awards are as follows:

Largest surf bass: 49½ lbs., D. Mele.
Largest boat bass: 48½ lbs., Bob Smart.
Most bass from surf: Dick Mele
Most bass from boat: Jim Lane
Largest surf blue: 17½ lbs., G. Nellen.
Largest boat blue: 19½ lbs., Joe Descovich
Largest surf weakfish: Charlie Kay
Largest boat weakfish: D. Costello
Most surf points: Joe Mele
Most boat points: Jim Lane

SALTY FLYRODDERS

Following are the "Salty" Flyrodders of New York, Inc. Club officers for 1980: President: Joe Falke; Vice-Pres.: Bill Bradshaw; (Acting) Corresponding Sec.: Lou Rossi; Treasurer: Harry Lasker; Recording Sec.: Mike Picciotti; Director: Vincent Posillico, and Director: Hammond Fox.

Also, our CLub is offering a "Free" Saltwater Fly Fishing Clinic, March 3, 1980 at Grace Lutheran Church, 31-20 21st Ave., Astoria, N.Y. This clinic is open to the public and will start at 8PM.

NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

NMFS GOING TO INTERIOR?

Recently, word was received from a "well-informed Washington source" that a major change is forthcoming in Federal fisheries administration. According to that source, the President is about to issue an Executive Order transferring the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) from the Commerce Department to Interior. If that is actually the case, there will be a great deal of rejoicing among marine sport fishermen.

I'm sure that few readers are aware of the battle fought a decade ago by most of the national conservation organizations to prevent the transfer of the marine sport fisheries from Interior to Commerce. Commercial fisheries were already in Commerce, under the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, but when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was formed, all marine fisheries were combined to form the National Marine Fisheries Service under NOAA. The conservation organizations felt that there would not be a friendly atmosphere within Commerce for marine fisheries, and their fears have come to pass.

Actually, marine sport fisheries had been receiving increasingly more attention up through 1976. The Ford Administration's Secretary of Commerce, Eliot Richardson, was knowledgeable about fisheries and had a feeling for the importance of the recreational aspect. Ironically, it was with the election of two fishermen to the highest offices in the land that the situation deteriorated. The new Secretary of Commerce, Juanita Kreps, knew nothing about fishing and didn't even seek professional help in running the portions of her Department charged with administrating the fisheries. Instead, political appointees took over NOAA and NMFS and they're still in "on the job" training! Whereas there appeared to be a trend toward equitable treatment of recreational fisheries a few years ago, the situation now is a sad one. The "business at any cost" atmosphere of Commerce prevails and conservation definitely has to take a back seat.

This sad performance by Commerce has led most conservation organizations to support Administration plans for a Department of Natural Resources, the basic make-up of which has been previously discussed in this column. The Sport Fishing Institute has objected to the lack of a discreet administration for fisheries within the new Department, but even that shortcoming doesn't negate the likelihood that marine fisheries would probably be a lot better off in such a reorganization.

Unfortunately, prospects for the formation of a Department of Natural Resources in the current Administration are nil. A great many Congressional prerogatives would be affected and there is no chance that the consequent infighting and trade-offs will be permitted to muddy the waters in an election year. On the other hand, the transfer of NMFS to Interior by Executive Order would accomplish a portion of the goal and smooth the way for the new department in the next Administration.

If the transfer to Interior actually occurs, it may well be the best thing that's happened to marine fisheries since the 200-Mile Limit was passed. NMFS is presently a classic example of everything that's wrong with the Federal bureaucracy. As bad as the average citizen's view of that bureaucracy is, NMFS is actually far worse. You have to work around it awhile to really appreciate the ineptitude and political chicanery that characterizes the agency. That's not to say that there aren't many competent and enthusiastic employees in NMFS. The problem is that these people rarely advance to the point where their talents may become an embarrassment to their superiors. What's needed is a good housecleaning—and there would be a good likelihood of that occurring in Interior.

Though neither the commercial or recreational fisheries are being handled well under NMFS at present, the recreational component is getting the shorter stick. Among commercial fishermen, those who have made out well under the present circumstances are the law violators. Since NMFS administrators have given little support to the relatively few law enforcement agents (and devised rules so complex and full of holes that they're almost impossible to enforce), the result has been that those who have paid no attention to the regulations at all have grown rich—while only the law-abiding have been left holding the bag when quotas have been used up and seasons closed. As a result, there are few commercial fishermen who can be convinced that NMFS is really working for their best interests.

Recreational interests are even more convinced that the situation is out of hand. Since NMFS is basically a carryover of the old Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, it isn't surprising that there is a definite commercial orientation among the senior officials. Even figures indicating that the economic value of the recreational fisheries is far greater than that of the domestic commercial finfish industry hasn't changed that attitude at all. NMFS talks a good game about its interest in recreational fishing, but that seems to be primarily to wheedle extra money from Congress and assuage the more gullible in the sport fishing world. The bottom line is that very little research is devoted to species which are primarily of sporting interest. The relative lack of data that's holding up the bluefish and shark plans is a good example of the downgrading of recreational fish.

Under Interior things were quite different. During the Sixties, marine sport fisheries got good funding and some impressive work was done. Indeed, it was the sport fish lab at Sandy Hook that produced much of the information we have to work with on sport fish today—and it was also that lab which initiated such programs as Jack Casey's shark work and important artificial reef studies. Much of what we know about bluefish behavior was learned at Sandy Hook from blues that were kept in a large tank for years. When marine sport fisheries were under Interior there didn't seem to be any question about whether a species was primarily within the three-mile limit of state jurisdiction or outside it. If it was a sport fish, it was a legitimate candidate for research. NMFS, on the other hand, has spent more time and energy figuring out reasons why it shouldn't be studying bluefish than in trying to do anything about them. Perhaps, under Interior, the scientists who are anxiously awaiting the "go ahead" on bluefish can get adequate funding and start making up for a decade of relatively little work in that field.

Since hearing this rumor, nothing further has occurred as of the time this column is being written. However, hope springs eternal and there just may be a chance that our fisheries can rescued by the present Administration.

PUBLIC HEARINGS IN BABYLON

Sportfishermen are urged to attend the Public Hearing that is being held this Saturday morning at 10 AM, February 23, in the Babylon Town Hall in Lindenhurst. These hearings are being held on proposed state legislation that would ban fish traps in in Montauk State Park, dragging in Great South Bay, regulate gill nets and place an 8-inch minimum size limit on flounder. For further details, see the Editorial on page 4.

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

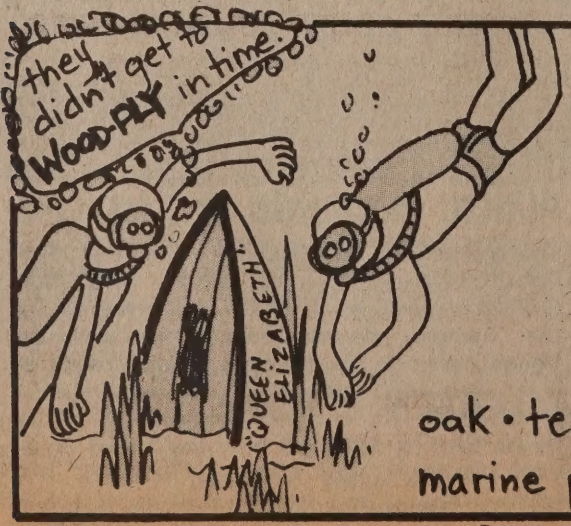
UPDATE ON '79 LOOSE ENDS

ISSUE 49! In the next to last issue we attempted to clear up some loose ends for the year 1979. Well, as you know, loose ends sometimes have a way of staying loose. In this case, however, one of our readers came to the rescue with yet another possible explanation for the fishkill in Jamaica Bay that was told to us last September by Eugene Corcoran. Perhaps you remember the incident. It seems that during July of 1979 everything in Hawtree Creek turned Belly-up and the water took on a terrible smell. We reported on our attempts to investigate the situation through the Health Department and the Sanitation Department. We were led around by rings in our noses for months only to hit a blind alley. Then, on December 6, 1979, Gary Montalto of Howard Beach wrote into make a suggestion. "I read your article in The Long Island Fisherman, Issue #49. You told us about how you tried to find out what happened in Jamaica Bay during the past summer. You asked if anyone had any additional information. Maybe I can help you. I am an avid fisherman of the Jamaica Bay and when the fish began to die, I became very upset—not only because of a downturn in my own fishing success, but also because I have been watching the bay waters become cleaner and cleaner for about the last ten years. So I did some checking on my own. I made inquiries at the Ranger Station at both the Jamaica Bay Bridge itself and a branch of the Gateway National Recreation Area. From both sources I learned that at nearby Kennedy International Airport, chemicals are dumped into the water without treatment. Some have suggested that this dumping may have been responsible for the Hawtree Creek fishkill last summer. What happened?"

AND A NEWSPAPER REPORT! The daily newspapers also covered the story and they also asked officials for their opinion. Most blamed the situation on hot, windless, summer weather. Well, it is true that calm, hot summer weather can cause strange aquatic events such as red tides and other local "blooms" of microorganisms. However, although red tides require very little nutrients (relative to non-polluted normal levels) other blooms of microorganisms require higher than usual amounts of nutrients—especially organic substances. Perhaps the most accurate statements came from Mr. Anthony Taormina, Director of the Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Marine and Coastal Resources. He pointed out that storm sewers are connected to sewage conduits. Thus, during heavy rains sewage and rain runoff mix and end up in the bay—untreated. Thus, the attempts to label the Hawtree Creek incident "natural," seems a little hard to swallow. Even if there was no intentional dumping of either sewage or toxic wastes, the fact that the system is designed to discharge raw sewage into the bay during heavy rains means that there can be a rapid and intense build-up of organic materials in the waters of Jamaica Bay, thus setting the stage for a bloom of microorganisms when the temperature goes up and the winds lay down. Is such a situation "natural?"

LETTER TO PORT AUTHORITY. Based upon Gary Montalto's letter, we wrote to Mr. Richard R. Klenk, Manager, Plant and Structures Division, Kennedy International Airport. Unlike the other departments and offices of the City of New York, Mr. Klenk did not attempt to give us the runaround. Instead, he was most helpful and willing to make a complete investigation. After two weeks of investigating with the help of many of the people who work with Mr. Klenk, he was able to give us a formal appraisal. "With respect to your letter of January 3, 1980, please be advised that we have no knowledge of any toxic substances being dumped into Jamaica Bay from Kennedy International Airport. It is further noted that the industrial treatment plant operated by Pan American Airways discharges directly into, and is monitored by, the Jamaica Waste Treatment Facility operated by the City of New York. A possible cause of the discoloration and odors in parts of Jamaica Bay during July and August of 1979 is contained in the enclosed copy of a newspaper article taken from the New York Daily News dated August 8, 1979. If we can be of any further assistance to you, please let us know." Well, of course, we had already seen the Daily News article and we have been acquainted with the City's combined sewage and rain runoff system for tens of years.

ANOTHER BLIND ALLEY? Perhaps, but we don't think so. It is very unlikely that the source of the problem was Kennedy Airport. The possibility that someone fell asleep at the switch—that's still viable and, of course, the intrusion of sewage from rain runoff leads the parade. It is true that great progress has been made in the last few decades to improve the water quality in Jamaica Bay. Perhaps the biggest roadblocks to complete success remain the oil and gas pollution from barges and other vessels and the runoff of sewage from the otherwise contained treatment approach that is used by New York City. As long as these two roadblocks remain there will always be incidents like the one in Hawtree Creek last summer. We have witnessed



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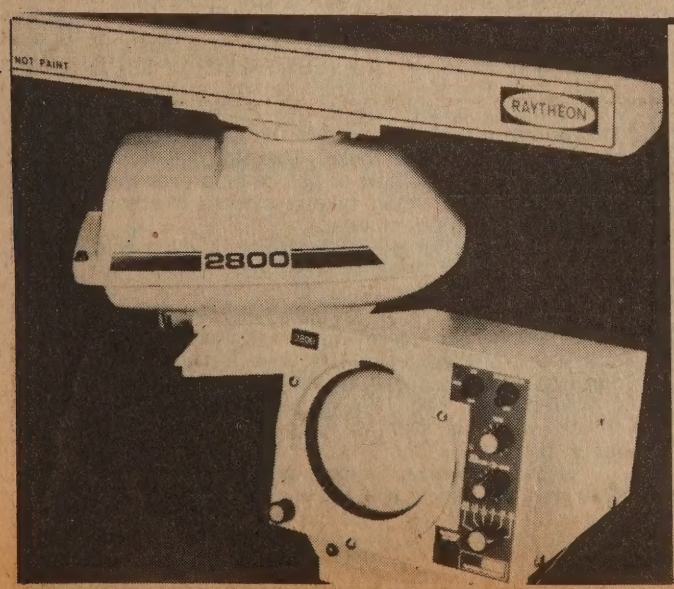
children swimming in oil slicks too, and we have wondered why their mothers and fathers have allowed this to continue. This is a clear danger to the health of the folks in that area.

LAST UPDATE ON THE FLOUNDER QUIZ! We sure had a lot of fun with the flounder quiz and the results of the analysis of answers. For some, it doesn't matter whether or not the score was high or low, but rather whether or not they have the last word. Well, the apparent award for the last word on this topic goes to Dolores M. Schmitt who wrote: "Thank you for delaying the printing of your 'flounder quiz' (results) so that it didn't coincide with the spring 1979 flounder season. Had all those flounder known that I was a duffer, I'm sure that they would never have taken my hook. By the way, since I now know that I'm a duffer, are all those flounder that I caught known as duffees?" TOUCHE!

NIGHT FEEDING UPDATE! We seem to have really started something concerning the night feeding habits of certain species of fish. A recent letter from Joe Rywelski proves that the debate continues. "Had you not printed my letter in your April, 1979 FISH TALK, I probably would never have tried to prove myself right (or wrong). But you did; and I did. I was frankly surprised at the lack of furor over the statement I made "that neither blackfish nor flounders feed at night." It was as though many readers just accepted the published word or just felt it wouldn't change their fishing patterns anyway." So it seems that Joe went out fishing in the dark of night and found that his original perception was perhaps not totally accurate. "By the time we pushed the canoe into the water it was already 3:30 p.m. and we had to pick some mussels for bait. At about 4PM, the chum pot hit bottom and sunset was 4:30; not much time. George and I started fishing and htting flounders in minutes, but they were small and except for three one-pound fish the rest were returned. Five o'clock came and went, six passed, and we were not only hooking flounder, but now half-pound tom cod were beginning to take the baits. The stars were out and clear, but no moon and it was dark. At six-thirty, a flounder attacked George's hook, was raised to the boat and released." So for Joe and George, flounders do bite at night. Apparently, George also watched early bird codfishermen take flounders in the pre-dawn blackness from the stern of a party boat.

ON THE OTHER HAND. Joe didn't find the blackfish as cooperative at night as he did flounder. "On October 16, 1979, Vinny and I CAUGHT blackfish. That in itself means little, but here again, we started fishing just before dark. We were still fishing when the sun went down at six-thirty. This time everything ended abruptly. We were out of crabs and so it must stand that blacks do not feed at night." There's a little zinger there. Joe is hinting that had he not run out of bait, they would have taken blackfish during the dark hours. He continued: "Divers seeing the blackfish sleeping in the rocks at night, may be seeing just that; but they may be seeing blackfish that had their fill and are sleeping it off. Also, divers usually pick quiet waters or slack tide to dive, and we have poor results blackfishing during these periods and places." Now who is waiting for me to stick my foot in my mouth. Now, now, that isn't nice and maybe I can resist the temptation to get things all stirred up again. Let it be!

AND SPEAKING OF JAMAICA BAY! A little while back, two ardent readers jointly composed a letter addressed to FISH TALK. Sean Rode and Steve Krammer wrote to say that they think the fishing in Jamaica Bay is very good!" Many people don't realize that Jamaica Bay is still full of good clean, healthy fish. Just recently, my very good friend caught a 2 lb. 2 oz. flounder. The people next to us caught one even larger. There are also a lot of large bluefish around, too, along with stripers and weakfish. Would you happen to know where most of the blues are caught in the area between the Marine Parkway Bridge and JFK's radar pier?" It has been a long time, but I was weaned on Jamaica Bay fishing. My dad and I spent many hours trolling for small blues and bass around what was then Idlewild International Airport. We caught our share, too. Of course, in those days there weren't any of the gorillagators roaming our waters the way there are today. We had to settle for harbor blues. Nonetheless blues, regardless of size, are blues and they are at once predictable and unpredictable. By that, I mean that if there is a lot of bait around (especially big bunker) blues can be expected to show up sooner or later even if there is barely a few inches of water between them and the bottom. At night, blues charge up into the mud flats of Jamaica Bay, for example. In the day, they won't be too far behind the bunker. Blues are also unpredictable because they will hit the same school of bunkers for two or three days in a row and then, without any change of weather condition, they will simply fail to show up on the next day; while a couple of miles away a group of porgy fishermen will get the shock of their lives. The best way to locate the blues is in season through your local bait and tackle store. The businesses right on top of events can direct you at least to within seeing distance of productive areas. When the good spot changes, these businessmen will know about it—if not first, at least second!



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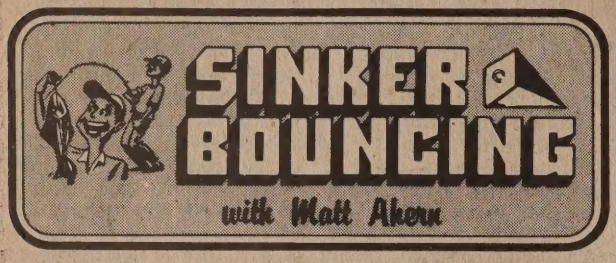


PARTY BOAT PRIMER

Much of what follows will be considered "old hat" by experienced party boat fishermen. If so, bear with me, for we have many new fishermen joining our ranks and many are interested in party boat fishing—especially now that spring is waiting in the wings. I know I've written similar articles over the years, but there seems no lack of interest and often I'm asked to repeat such and such an article by those who have misplaced their copies or who have been told that a particular one is just what they're looking for. So for the benefit of those fellows, I'll rehash what has gone before, a sort of composite. To begin, let me ask this: are you lucky enough to know a master fisherman? "Master fisherman" meaning the guy who goes forth day after day or weekend after weekend and returns with fish, seemingly without difficulty. If you do, buddy up to him and ask where he first got his experience, where he first learned "the ropes." I'm sure he'll tell you some part of his fishing life is, or was, spent aboard party boats. It's my conviction that there is no method of fishing which will turn a beginner into an expert angler sooner than party boat fishing. It is aboard these craft where beginners quickly earn the title of "Master fisherman." No inexperienced fisherman should expect to join this select group with but one or two trips under his belt. He won't.

Perhaps not for many trips will his skill increase to the extent where he knows exactly what to do each step of the way; increased to the point where he can correctly name—sight unseen—each kind of bottom fish by its own peculiar way of biting or by the particular fight it gives once the hook is set.

It takes much experience to do this, but party boat "regulars" do it all the time and rarely do they err—which is quite an accomplishment when one considers the variety of fish available to party boat anglers.

But in the meantime, while he's learning and as the seasons progress, the novice will be building a solid fishing foundation by catching all kinds of fish, plus learning the basic skills necessary to fish anywhere, confident in the knowledge that what he has learned will put fish in his bucket.

Beginning anglers often toy with the idea of giving party boat fishing a whirl, but hesitate, feeling too much is involved. Such, of course, is not the case. Party boat fishing is one of the easiest methods of fishing to be found anywhere.

For one thing, the fisherman need do nothing else but fish. The hard work of finding fish is done by experts who excel at their job. Nor is securing bait a problem, as it is supplied with the fare. It isn't even necessary to invest in an outfit, as tackle can always be rented for the day at a nominal sum. In that way, nothing much is lost if the angler feels this fishing is not for him.

But let me say this: in more than fifty years of party boat fishing, I've known few anglers who didn't become party boat fans, or known one who didn't literally count the days until the next trip. Such is the appeal of party boat fishing.

Renting tackle has both good and bad points. The good points you have just read about. The bad points are these: not only does rental tackle get used, it get abused. The rod may be too heavy or too light for the fishing being done on a particular day, the guides bent or grooved, or missing altogether. The reel, too, may leave much to be desired. So the smart fisherman considers the eventual purchase of his own tackle.

Tackle used depends on the kind of fishing intended. Some fishermen do their party boat fishing in sheltered bays where light equipment can be used for maximum sport. Others fish strictly in the ocean where sturdy tackle rugged enough to handle heavy sinkers and the necessary oomph to sink the hook in fairly deep water is mandatory. It's possible to use medium-weight tackle both inshore and offshore, but the lighter bay stuff can't be used in the ocean with good results.

All of which means the well-equipped fisherman who expects to fish both bay and ocean should have a good selection of rods: a heavy one for codfishing, a medium-weight for fluke, sea bass, porgies, blackfish, etc., and—while strictly not necessary—a lightweight bay rod for flounder and other smaller bay fish.

Reels should match the rod used and be the best the fisherman can afford. There are many good quality name-brand reels on the market, reels which will give years of satisfactory service with minimum care. They are worth every penny invested; therefore, the fisherman is advised to shun those bargain "Hong Kong" specials. Party boat fishing is rough on bargain equipment and it's no place to save a buck.

It's quite possible to use one reel for both offshore rods, although it is convenient to have two: one filled with 150 yards of twenty-pound test monofilament for the medium-weight rod will do, and 150 yards of thirty pound mono will fill the bill nicely for codfishing. For all around bay fishing, ten pound test is satisfactory. (Unless you go blackfishing, where twenty pound mono will prove best.)

Incidentally, while on this important subject, fishermen should never use spinning tackle aboard party boats—particularly when fishing aboard those offshore, deep-water boats. It will not do the job and is guaranteed to cause much frustration, plus loss of fish.

Now we come to the most important part of the fisherman's equipment. As no fisherman should skimp on his rod and reel, neither should he invest in cheap fishhooks. As I've stressed in several of these articles, the use of all other tackle is but an aid in getting that all-important hook into the fish's mouth. The fisherman who spends a good part of a day's pay on a rod or reel and then defeats himself by buying shoddy hooks is foolish indeed.

There is more to a fishhook than meets the eye. The price difference between two similar-appearing hook packages may be only fifty cents, but there can be a world of difference in quality. Why risk losing a possible pool-winner because of pennies? Truly, the adage of penny wise and pound foolish is applicable here.

Veteran anglers use only top quality hooks. Nationally advertised brands such as Mustad, Eagle Claw, and Pflueger, are to be found in the expert's tackle box. The beginner can bet the master fisherman knows the type and size to use for the fish he seeks. This fellow doesn't fool around; he is positively fanatical on the subject of fishhooks. Therefore, fishermen who wish to see a steady flow of fish coming over the rail can do nothing better than take a sincere interest in that curved bit of tempered steel.

Sinkers are no problem, although even this minor part of terminal tackle isn't just a case of using whatever is at hand.

Bank sinkers are preferred by most party boat fishermen. These tear-shaped weights will slide past many bottom obstructions where those of flat or diamond shape might easily foul. But even these two are preferred over the use of the surfcaster's pyramid sinker, which is sure to hang-up on the least bit of rough bottom.

Using the correct sinker weight is important. Too light and the sinker will fail to hold bottom. Too heavy and not only will the strain on the rod be excessive, but the fish are also prevented from putting up their usual

(Continued on page 28.)

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

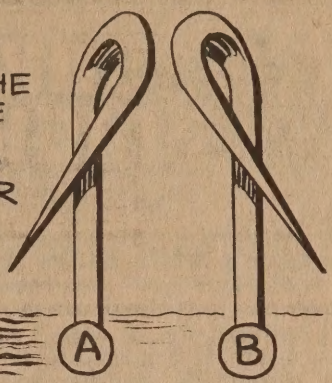
(1) **BESIDES** NATURAL SEAWEED, SLIPGUT AND ALGAE, WHAT ELSE PROTECTED BAY FLUKE AND FLOUNDERS FROM RAVAGING BY BAY DRAGGERS AND PRESERVED THE BOTTOM FISHING?

ANOTHER LOAD OF JUNK!

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

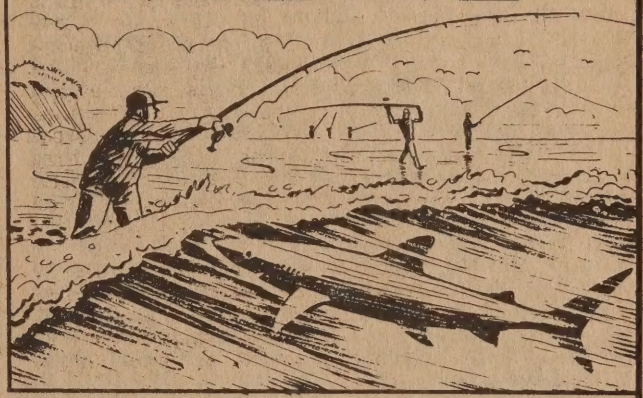
BY FRED GUARDINEER

(2) **WHICH** IS THE KIRBED HOOK POINT?



(3) **WHEN CATFISH** WIGGLE THEIR WHISKERS IN JAPANESE FISH TANKS, WHAT ARE THEY PREDICTING?

(4) **SHARKS** MUST ROLL OVER ONTO THEIR BACKS TO BITE A FISHERMAN. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐



(5) **THE WHITE STURGEON**, THE LARGEST FRESHWATER FISH IN NORTH AMERICA HAS BEEN KNOWN TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF 18 YEARS ☐
47 YRS. ☐ 82 YRS. ☐ 104 YRS. ☐

(6) **WHO WERE** THE FIRST FISH TAGGERS, A READER ASKS?

1 - BOTTLES, CANS AND OTHER TRASH DISCARDED BY BOAT FISHERMEN WHICH CLUTTER THE DRAGGERS' NETS. 2 - "A" IS KIRBED OR OFFSET TO THE RIGHT. "B" IS REVERSED OR OFFSET TO THE LEFT. 3 - EARTHQUAKES 85 % OF THE TIME. 4 - FALSE. 5 - 82 YEARS. 6 - 100 YEARS AGO IN SCOTLAND, WEALTHY LANDOWNERS WHO WONDERED WHERE ALL THEIR STOCKED SALMON AND TROUT WERE GOING - FOUND OUT BY THE USE OF TAGS.

PLUGS AND HOW TO USE THEM

CONCLUSION (First part appeared in issue no. 6)

For many Long Island surfmen, darters and bottle plugs are synonymous with the rock and boulder strewn beaches that border Montauk's famed lighthouse. The feeling is not without merit since this area regularly produces fish on such plugs. Many anglers, for that matter, believe that this is the only spot on the island where it pays to put these plugs to work. This is certainly not true, although Montauk is ideally suited to taking bass, weaks, and blues on the wood swimmers for several reasons.

These plugs simulate big baitfish. Montauk is frequently blessed with good amounts of such bait whether it be whiting, porgies, snappers, mackerel, weakfish, bunker, or herring. Heavy, moving water creates rips and eddies among submerged boulders, setting up ideal feeding stations for game fish. It also helps to impart an effective swimming action to your plug. In addition, fish are more easily duped into taking these lures when they are disguised by a little turbulence.

There are a number of other spots on the island that surrender fish to darters and bottle plugs. I have enjoyed good success in the past working large mackerel finished bottles from the tip of the jetty at Democrat Point. Locals take a fair amount of fish from the East Side jetties bordering Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets on white and yellow versions of the same plug. Each season some big stripers and blues are taken from the backside of South Shore inlets on bottle plugs. Darters, fished in the swirling rips that ebb around Fire Island's Sore Thumb, do a job on weaks and blues after dark. Unfortunately, grass, more often than not, is a problem here.

Despite the effectiveness of these lures in fast moving water, they also have their moments along the open beach and the normally placid boulder strewn shore of the Sound. A running tide is required to make a darter swim properly. As a result, the plug must be worked fast enough to compensate for lack of current in quiet water. The bottle plug, on the other hand, with its big, scooped lip, will swim well when retrieved slowly.

One night five years ago, Richie Simmons and myself leap-frogged three miles of Fire Island beach. Using white and yellow darters, we took stripers at nearly every spot. When big blues invade Sound harbors and beaches on the heels of bunker schools, bottle plugs can sometimes produce explosive action. Too many anglers under-estimate the fish-catching potential of bottle plugs and darters once they leave the environs of Montauk. Don't make the same mistake.

A few different variations can be applied to "working" these plugs. When your basic cast and retrieve is rewarding you with goose eggs, try stopping your retrieve three or four times during each cast. Let the plug sit for a couple of seconds and then start reeling slowly. The same tactic is often successful when used at the end of your cast. The strike frequently comes just as you continue your retrieve. More than once, fish have taken the plug as it rested motionless on the surface. Supplementing a steady retrieve with an occasional burst of speed is a good way to imitate a panic-striken baitfish. Quite frequently, this will provoke a strike from an otherwise disinterested game fish. When using darters, another gimmick is to point your rod tip at your plug and make a couple of hand sweeps to your right and left. Let the line float back to the surface and sit for a second or two before you contnue reeling. If you have watched a baitfish in its death throes, shuddering and darting about before fluttering to the surface, you can appreciate the potential of imparting such action to your plug.

Both darters and bottle plugs come in different sizes and weights. When there is a strong crosswind blowing or a big heave on, the heavier, broad-lipped models will dig in and work effectively, whereas the smaller, lighter ones are rendered useless. Also, while these two lures are primarily used for night work, I have taken fish in midday on both. In fact, I regularly include a bottle plug in my "day bag." It makes for a very castable swimmer that comes in handy should you come across the less and less frequent scene of big fish rolling in big bait. Nonetheless, it pays to be prepared.

A number of manufacturers make several variations of the darter. Size, weight, screw eyes vs. through wire, wood vs. plastic accounting for the differences. The Super-Strike, Danny, and Gibbs plugs are all top fish getters. The plastic version put out by Cordell is another good one when distance is not required to reach a productive rip. Quite a few good homemade creations take fish as well. In bottle plugs, the Gibbs "Casting Swimmer" is the only one I am aware of. As with any wood plug, once you find a consistent fish getter—guard it with your life. Sleep with it if you have to!

Plastic-bodied minnow imitations have probably become the most frequently used tool among surfmen from one end of the island to the other. Such acceptance among the most demanding of the angling clan says enough about the effectiveness of these lures. In addition, many casters, through use of these lures, have been enlightened to the fact that it is not always necessary to throw a plug three hundred feet in order to catch fish. In fact, the majority of fish taken on these light, wind-resistant plugs, are hooked within seventy-five feet of the beach.

These clone-like imitations come in floating, sinking, and deep-diving models. Most casters in this area concern themselves with only the floaters and the sinkers. The lures come in different body lengths, with the 4½ and 5½ plugs accounting for many fish along Sound beaches and on the backside of South Shore inlets. The larger 7½ versions have proven themselves as sturdy, big water lures and are not demolished by big fish as easily as the smaller models sometimes are.

"Versatile" is an apt description for these lures. Game fish take these lures just as readily during the daytime as they will at night. Also, regardless of the size lure you use, both large and small bass, weaks, and blues find them irresistible. They will take fish under a variety of water conditions and the selection available makes it possible to cover a wide range of depths.

Generally, these lures are cast and retrieve fast enough to impart the required swimming action. All of the tactics mentioned in our discussion of darters however, can be applied to these lures to increase their effectiveness. In addition, sinking models can be fished via the "countdown" method. This involves permitting the plug to sink to a desired depth before beginning your retrieve. By varying the sinking time from a two count to a five count and then to a ten count, productive feeding zones can sometimes be found.

Among the most popular of these lures are the Rebel and RedFin. Others include the Hellcat, Rapala (balsa wood construction), and the Sea Bee. Whenever possible, be sure to buy models designed for saltwater use. The difference being stronger hooks and split rings.

Certain variations and techniques can be applied to plugging that, at times, will put more fish on your stringer. Since some of these methods have been the subject of entire articles in the past, I will only touch upon them.

Fitting out swimmers such as the Atom and Danny with the skin of an eel (Skin Plug; Issue #2, 1980), makes these plugs particularly alluring to big stripers. This seems especially true along North Shore beaches and from South Shore rock piles.

Popping plugs, usually considered a daytime lure, can sometimes be effective at night when made to "swim" rather than "pop." This is accomplished by bending the eye of the plug up into the top of the concave head with a pair of pliers. Begin your retrieve immediately after the plug hits the surface and reel slow and steady with short, gentle lifts of the rod tip. This tactic can be applied when wind conditions prohibit the use of standard swimmers.

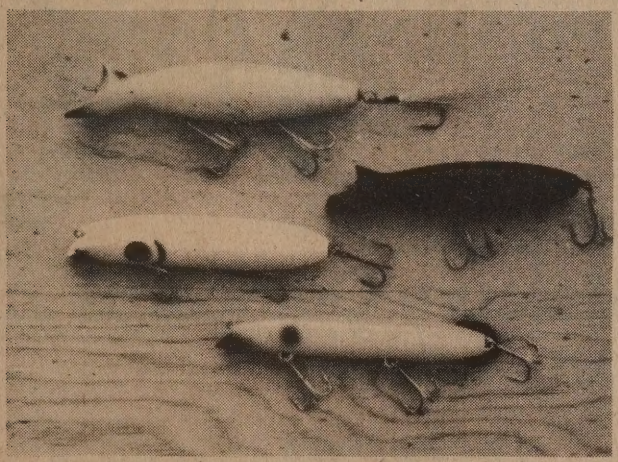
Despite the effectiveness of darters, they do have one glaring fault—particularly those equipped with fixed hooks. Big bass have a tendency to use the bodies of these plugs for leverage which enables them to straighten even the strongest treble. This problem can be remedied by removing the screw eye for the head hook and also the eye used to connect your snap to the plug. Since bass take a plug head first, it is generally this hook that is straightened. Drill a hole wide enough for a one foot length of fifty pound mono to slide easily through. Start at the connecting eye and drill through the body at about a 45° angle. Countersink the bottom end of the hole enough to allow an improved clinch knot to fit loosely within it. This knot is used to attach your treble hook. A seventy-five pound swivel goes on the other end. Fill any holes on the underside from where screw eyes have been removed. If plug has a belly hook, it also should be removed. The one treble will do the job. Before rigging, spray some protective wood coating through the drilled hole. With the head hook rigged in such a manner, the plug will simply slide freely up and down the short trace of mono when battling a fish, thus eliminating any chance for a fish to gain leverage against the body of your plug.

The use of droppers has witnessed a resurgence in popularity the past couple of seasons. The addition of a feathered teaser tied in a couple of feet ahead of your plug gives you a decided advantage, especially since so much small bait has been present around the island in recent years.

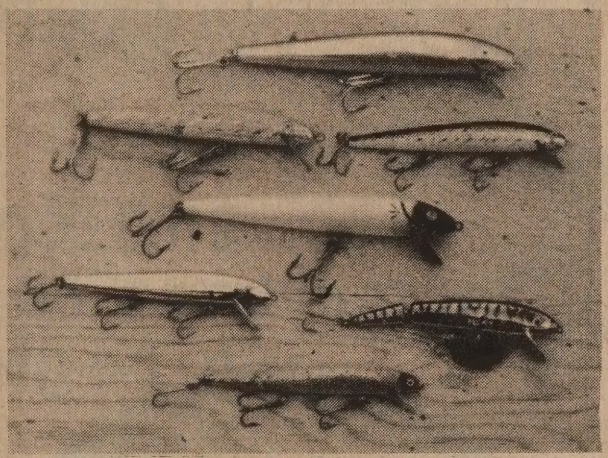
Adding water to the plastic bodies of RedFin and Rebel floaters increases the castability and depth range of these lures. Varying amounts of water are added to these plugs to meet different current and depth requirements. A syringe is used to load the plug through a small hole made via a small, heated nail. A good epoxy is used to patch it up, after which a touch of sandpaper and a dash of paint erase any sign of tampering.

An often overlooked fault of many anglers is to use a snap on popping plugs or an unnecessarily large snap on swimmers. Before you scream, "I've caught plenty of fish on poppers with a snap swivel attached," let me say that over the course of a season you will put more fish on the beach by foregoing the snap. Attention to such details is as important in plugging as selecting the right lure in a given situation.

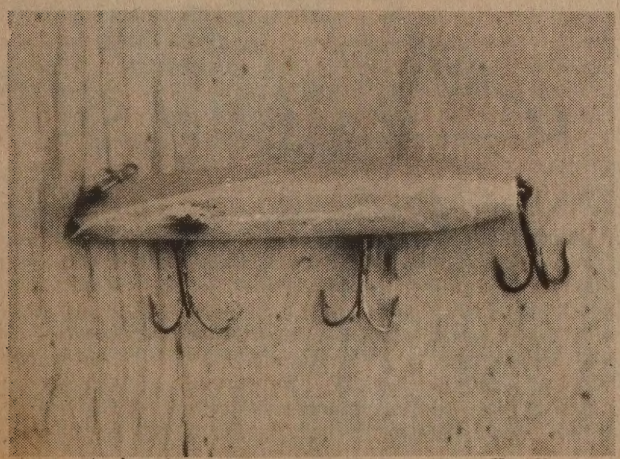
Next to a fly rod, taking game fish on plugs is the most challenging and satisfying aspect of our sport. Plugging can be as involved or as simple as you want it to be.



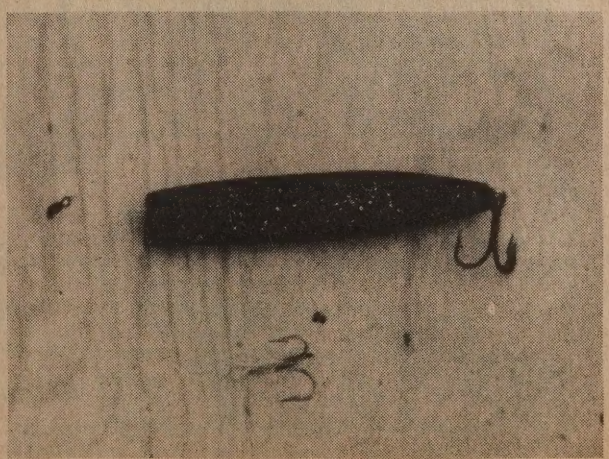
Two bottle plugs are shown at top, Musso and Gibbs darters shown at bottom.



An assortment of minnow imitations used by Long Island surfmen. Top three are Rebels, next three are Redfins, and the swimmer at the bottom is a Hellcat.



This photo shows a darter that has been worked over by a big bass. Note the straightened head hook and screw eye crushed back against the diving plane.



Here is a darter rigged with sliding head hook. This eliminates the ability of a fish to use the plug for leverage on the hook.

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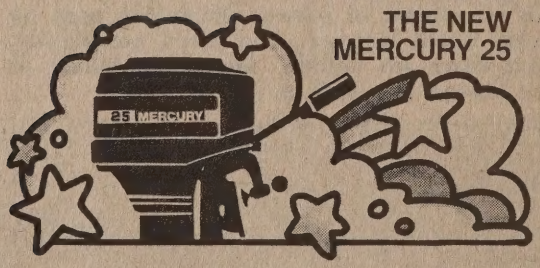

10 SECOND PRIZES
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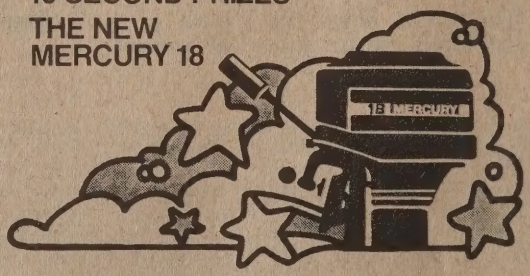

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The Case For A Saltwater Fishing License

—READERS' COMMENTS—

EDITOR'S NOTE: ***The following letters were in response to*** **The Fighting Chair** ***editorial that appeared in the February 7th issue of L.I.F., "THE SALTWATER LICENSE: Fighting the Inevitable?" In that editorial we gave the opinion that at this time saltwater sportfishermen stand to gain much more by fighting for a well structured license NOW, rather than waiting for a meaningless license to be shoved down our throats that will be nothing more than just another tax. With that thought in mind, we are publishing a series of articles, starting in our March 6th issue, under the title*** **"The Case For A Saltwater Fishing License."** **Scott S.**

I've been a subscriber of The Fisherman for several years and the articles published in it have been mellowing as the years roll by. Your articles in Volume 15, number 6, just hit the bull's-eye. For years, I have been against the licensing of saltwater fishermen, but after reading your article in this recent issue, I sort of reversed my opinion.

I, for one, would be willing to pay $5 per year for a saltwater license providing that the agency be a reliable local agency which could foresee the needs of the fishermen. I would suggest that the agency would erect two good sized piers on the North Shore and two on the South Shore, between the Queens County line and Nassau County or wherever they see fit for the better place to fish. Benches to be erected around the three sides of the piers, garbage cans to be chained to the pier so the hoodlums won't be able to throw them overboard, and ample parking space close by. And before I forget—a good sized comfort station.

I may be a little selfish by requesting such conveniencing equipment, but it would be a bull's-eye to the clean fisherman who would appreciate this very much.

I will be 78-years-old come March 12, and was an ardent boat fisherman until I got hit with this inflation business. You just can't go out and spend $20 or $25 on a trip now when you have a low income and the same goes for thousands of us old-timers who seek a little recreation and have nowhere to go.

I recall years ago when I had my 16' PennYan with an outboard motor. The State decided to license all boats for a $2.00 fee. The following year, they jacked up the ante to $3.00. Then the following year it jumped to $5. We didn't derive any benefits whatsoever from the tax and then it kept up to this very day.

I would still be willing to speculate with a $5.00 fee for 2.3 million fishermen, get some good comfort and enjoy my good old fishing and relaxation. I hope this will be a good start for you and your project. **S. L. Weinstein**

* * *

Seems like you are doing it again. Not too long ago there was a bill in N. Y. State that had The Fisherman up in arms. It was the Kiddler Bill from Albany, that provoked a large turnout and I guess one of the largest turnouts at the Holiday Inn a week later.

I personally went to both meetings and was reassured that this fishing license business was not going to go anywhere. It seems at the time at the Holiday Inn, that you put forth the same **negative** approach about the **inevitable** fishing license.

Needless to say, hands shot up from the floor—mine being one. Unfortunately, someone else was picked to state simply and straightforward, why must there be a license at all?

That got the ball rolling to a point where the people kicked Albany in the butt and sent Assemblyman Kiddler leaving L.I. with his tail between his legs.

I, for one, and I hope there are many more out there who feel the way I do. Am furious about this license business. The people won the battle on that one, but lost the war. So it seems it's starting to come down to the war where the people are going to be forced one way or another to comply with bureaucratic pressures and insistence.

The N.R.A. has had a fight on their hands for a long time about the right to bear arms, and seems to be holding its own over the years. Now the saltwater fisherman is getting it in the neck because someone out there is looking to stuff more monies in their pockets and make the name of being the first to capitalize with their name on a bill to advance said career.

Assemblyman Kiddler was shocked at the response of the L.I. people when he left here—what say we shock a few more and band together and try to come up with another alternative; maybe donations or materials and work groups like the one that sank a reef for a sum that was far less than any Federal or State employed organization would do. Seems over the years whenever there is millions to be spent on projects, it ends up in the billions, and I for one am tired of the game.

Fact One is that there cannot be a put-and-take situation for saltwater fish.

Fact two: is that a limit cannot be put on the fisherman; maybe a size limit, but not an amount. But then again why pay for the privilege when size limit has already been given to some species.

Fact three: The fishing license is **eternal**, once it goes into effect, snowballing into God knows what eventually.

I wonder if anyone ever remembers the fifteen cent fare on the subway, and how it was told to us that the fare will be raised to twenty-five cents for **one year** to get the City transportation out of the red? I never heard about it again.

Fact four: I am sure that every town that is on the water is going to reap its own reward with the fisherman paying not only for his license, but also for the privilege of using its access points which is where we are at this very moment.

I'm sure I could go on and on like this if need be, and what started out as a letter almost makes a long editorial. A feller can get carried away on a subject such as this.

And to The Long Island Fisherman, I say, I doubt that people would be foolish enough to drop your magazine for two pages of enlightenment and many more of knowledge. **Hank Tomkalski, East Meadow, N.Y.**

* * *

There are lots of us out here who, like you, never believed that old saw, "If rape is inevitable, lay back and enjoy it!" We look to you, Doc, and the L.I.F. to lead us on the right

path, and I, for one, look forward eagerly to the upcoming "The Case for a Saltwater License" series.

Realizing that it is all too easy to sit back and let someone else do all the work, I hereby offer my services for any assistance I may be able to provide, if you need me.

I agree, the needs are great for any monies realized through a saltwater license, but must insist that any and all monies received become the sole use of saltwater sport fishing. No money sloughed off to freshwater use, and most definitely none for commercial men!

Perhaps we may yet see more piers, launch ramps, and beaches become available, if not to us, then at least to our children!

So, start slugging, Scotty, and for God's sake, don't pull any punches! This is for real this time! **Andy Regina.**

***

If it's going to be a New York State-administered fishing license, why not ONE licence covering both salt and fresh water? **A. Lynch, Valley Stream.**

***

I think the L.I.F. is unnecessarily pessimistic regarding changing the attitudes of those of us who presently might be opposed to a "properly structured saltwater fishing license bill." Of course, we're angry and emotionally charged over the issue; but we're not **idiots**! And when push comes to shove, **all** of us who love our sport will not be found wanting. We will be compelled to fall in line as a necessity if we and our fishing environment are to **survive**.

The common sense approach, so eloquently expressed by Scott Simons on Feb. 7, must be awesomely appealing to each of us who subscribe to the great L.I.F. Scott tells it "like it is," even though he perceives his position as threatening the very existence of the finest fishing magazine in the country. The way I see it is that Scott has concluded that we should be ready to lose the battle, but win the war! And it is a real war between the good guys (US) and the bad guys (the bureaucrats and the commercial fishermen).

I appeal to the good guys to THINK about a profoundly powerful legion of saltwater fishermen who CAN finally carry the big stick in our political and economic arenas. THINK about the fearful dangers of yielding to the bad guys. THINK about the L.I.F. doing **our** dirty work. THINK about our very limited options.

The ballot mailed to you shouldn't even be necessary; but dammit mail it back immediately with a resounding and unanimous YES. As for me, I'm mailing a check to Scott to help him and the magazine offset the costs of fighting OUR battle; AND I'm calling my State Senator and Assemblyman and putting it right on the line to them. If they don't see my viewpoint they simply won't get my VOTE. WE do have power; let's use it wisely. **F. E. Picciano, New Hyde Park, N.Y.**

***

"I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." That was my first reaction upon reading your article in the L.I.F. 2/7/80 Issue on "The Saltwater License." I was ready to get into my fighting chair and start hurling salvos at the nearest gov't. agency. I felt so violated. Who the hell do they (whatever gov't. agency who thought up this fiasco) think they are restricting **my** fishing. My fishing to me is up there with love for God, Mom, and apple pie.

I reread your article and realized that you did make a few good points. That helped me cool off enough to gather my thoughts and send them to you for what they're worth.

If (that's a big IF) the license **is** structured correctly, you're right—we do stand (We as in sport fishermen) to gain all those wonderful things you predicted. The most important of them being the formation of an influential political lobby. With that lobby we, the sport fishermen of New York State being united under a common cause, would be able to make sure that our best interests would not be shelved by some incompetent government agency.

I now have two things to look forward to in March: my share of Pseudopleuronectes Americanus (winter flounder) and "The Case For A Saltwater License." P.S.—The vote **will not** be simple. **Joe DeFranco, Auburndale, N.Y.**

***

I'm a man of 60 years of age. My fishing days date back to 1938. Believe me, I spent a lot of money fishing on party boats in my 41 years of fishing. I didn't mind spending the money because I knew I was going to enjoy myself fishing; also the money spent went to men who were in business to make an honest dollar for their wonderful services.

Now the day is supposedly coming that we have to pay for a license to fish in free waters.

If you think for one moment that those politicians are going to do good for the fishermen by licensing us then think again. Just look at your off-track betting promises for education; look at your lottery tickets and let the politicians tell us where all that money went. Your ideas are straight, but believe me, their ideas will be crooked as all hell. When they get through spending the money for salaries and overhead, there won't even be enough left to buy a dozen worms. Never trust a politician.

As I said, I spent a lot of money fishing, but to have a politician's friend or lackey get a job running whatever they will call this licensing department, then I'll just have to say "Hell, no, I won't give a dime to or for a saltwater fishing license.

If they are hell bent on licensing the saltwater fishermen, then let them know that we are hell bent on having one of our own as a supervisor of this licensing dept. We, as saltwater fishermen, have to get the message to them that we want one of our own to run the licensing dept. What better way than the L.I. Fisherman is there to get the message over to them. You have the weapon, so let's start using it like you did in the past. Get to all charter captains to have petitions on board to sign; get to all the fishing clubs to have petitions signed; get to all the bait shops and stations and get to us readers to have petitions signed by our friends and neighbors. Let these politicians know that if they are going to license us, then we want "Scott Simons" too on the team to look out for the saltwater fishermen. Good luck. **J. DeRosa, Valley Stream, N.Y.**

***

In response to your editorial on a saltwater fishing license, I have drawn the conclusion that you have taken on the attitude, "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em." Well, in the distant future a license may be beneficial, possibly, but presently it is ridiculous.

Recently, Al Ristori wrote in the National Scene column of how poorly the National Marine Fisheries Service is managed and administered to; about all the red tape and political shoe-ins that are part of it. Remember the battle over the appointment of Nancy Goell to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Committee, and remember who lost? So we got a bureaucrat instead of a fisherman, right? And what happened when you guys went up against the bureaucrats of the State Park Commission over the North Bar fish trap at Montauk? Snow jobs—right?! And what about the flack at Field 9 down the west end? Now tell me why in the hell should fishermen (after all that experience) put themselves in the position to be controlled by license regulations by a bunch of bureaucrats who **think they** should control when, where, how many and what size fish **we** should or should

(Continued on page 35.)

COMING MARCH 7th:
THE CASE FOR A SALTWATER FISHING LICENSE

This important series of articles will begin in the March 6th issue of *The L.I. Fisherman*. Readers' comments are welcome and will be published on a space available basis. For further info on this series, see the Editorial on page 4 in the February 7th issue of L.I.F.

Origins of the Fish Hook

By Hans Jorgen Hurum

From the primitive gorge to the machine-crafted metal hooks of today, man—according to his needs, resources, and imagination—has produced hundreds of thousands of varieties of one simple fish-catching device.

Reprinted from I.G.F.A. "World Record Game Fishes," 1979 Edition

One can only guess how man began to fish. The earliest discovery of human beings is said to have been made by the British anthropologist Dr. L.S.B. Leakey. He made a sensational find in the Olduvai Chasm, a deep crevasse in Tanzania, Central Africa, of the skeletal remains of primitive people, an apelike man who walked erectly (Australopithecus) and possibly a true man (homo). Their settlements were excavated along the shores of a lake that has long since vanished. Here one could see that our distant forefathers were not vegetarians. Remains of animals were found on which these men subsisted: lizards, small mammals, snakes and—fish.

Ultra-modern science has been able to determine the age of these finds with considerable certainty. They are approximately 1.8 million years old.

Some of us, I guess, would regard our forefathers at that time with pity, helpless as they were without proper tools, not to mention weapons. But were not these men half animal? And who speaks of animals as being helpless as long as they are free and sound? I can never forget a film I once saw which showed a bear catching salmon by the riverside. Quick as lightning, with a fierce power, the bear's paw threw the salmon ashore. It's possible that primitive man was just as able to catch fish with his foreleg; i.e., with his arm and fingers.

Man's intelligence seems to have developed in an amazingly short time. No wonder then that he soon learned to use a pole or a forked branch as an extension of his arm. With a pole he could spear the fish. Soon he might also have learned how to jam the fish between the prongs of his pole; later would come the three-pronged wooden forks of Poseidon and Neptune. It is also possible that man may have used a branch shaped with some kind of sharply-angled point to be used as a gaff. If so, we approach the idea of a fishhook.

Thousands upon thousands of years must have passed before man tried to catch a fish by means of a hook attached to a line. It is even doubtful that line fishing—angling—began with the use of a hook.

Both long ago and in our own time, fishermen have succeeded in catching fish by means of attaching some fine-threaded contraption to the line, rather than a hook. Indians in California used to attach a bundle of vegetable fibres or human hair to the line, sometimes with a live worm fastened to the bundle. The teeth of the fish got entangled in the "bait" so that the quarry could be hauled in. Fishermen of the Solomon Islands are said to employ bunches of cobwebs in place of fibres. In the Bosporus, a certain species of tuna is fished, even today, according to the same principle, but here the bunch consists of silk tnreads.

Another method still in use in several countries is to fish eel by tying a bunch of worms together with lots of fine thread in which the eel's teeth get caught. In order to succeed in this method of fishing, however, I am told that you have to be quick in hauling in. In ancient Roman literature there is an amusing variation of this system. A fisherman, so the story goes, fished for eel with sheep intestines. When the eel had swallowed enough of the gut, the man would begin to blow through the intestines with all his might so that the gut became too big for the eel to spit out again.

It is probable that the fishhook was also preceded by the gorge. Personally, I'm inclined to believe that the gorge is the older invention.

In its simplest form the gorge is just a short, straight stick, sharply pointed at both ends, with the line fastened to the middle of the stick. If such an implement is placed in running water or jerked to give the impression of being alive, no doubt some fish will go for it. If the stick is baited, covered with a fish's skin for instance, some bigger fish will most certainly attempt to swallow it. This is the idea of the gorge. The fish swallows the stick lengthwise, and when the line is jerked the stick lodges crosswise and the fish may be hauled in.

The gorge must have been an effective implement since it is still in use in many countries (often illegally in connection with live baits). As time passed gorges could be made of any material and in any size, their purposes being most varied. For Eskimos and Indians the gorge has been a regular means of catching birds. Larger gorges have been in use in Africa and Asia for capturing crocodiles.

Above: *This picture, probably from the first century BC, shows an Egyptian merchant selling his wares—among them what appear to be fish hooks.*
Left: *"Fabrique des Hamecons" (A Hook Factory) is the title of this picture from the eighteenth century French Diderot & d'Alembert encyclopedia. The two men standing are fashioning fish hooks from coils of wire. Their bending equipment is shown enlarged at the bottom of the picture.*

Most illustrations are from *A History of the Fish Hook* (Oslo, 1976; London, 1977; New York, 1978) by Hans Jorgen Hurum.

Some authors maintain that the fishhook was developed from the gorge; but perhaps one should consider them instead as two parallel methods of catching fish. Contrary to the gorge, the fishhook is not necessarily meant to be swallowed, but rather to get stuck in the mouth of the fish.

It seems likely that the first proper fishhooks were modeled of wood. But wood rots by age, which is one of the reasons why the origins of angling lie in dark obscurity.

With primitive tools, wood was an easy material from which to make fishhooks. In fact, many branches could be found already shaped by nature into nearly ready-made hooks. If you doubt that a wooden hook would be strong enough, counter-evidence is plentiful. Dr. Bengt Anell of Sweden, author of the imposing work "Contribution to the History of Fishing in the Southern Seas" (Uppsala, 1955), states that wooden hooks have been in regular use through the ages for shark trolling. In a letter to me he says that the biggest hook he ever heard of is a wooden one still in use by some natives of New Guinea, which may measure more than a half a meter in length.

Of course, any type of wood will not do. Generation after generation has experimented to find the toughest woods possible. It has been written that some fishermen used to dig up the roots of a certain shrub, twist parts of the roots into knots, shape the hook, then let the tree grow for some years before being cut.

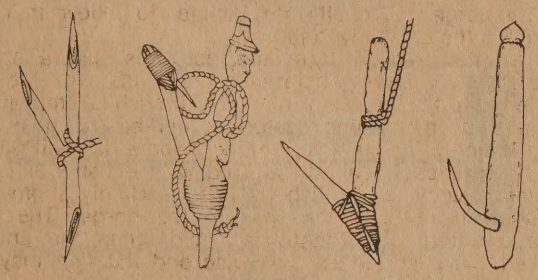
In smaller sizes, there must have been millions of wooden hooks. Right up to the beginning of this century the Laplanders of northern Norway stubbornly insisted on using wooden hooks for codfishing. Instead of buying steel hooks, they preferred their own hooks carved of juniper with the point burned to make it harder. The fish took wooden hooks more frequently, said the Laplanders, because they looked more lifelike in the water.

For longline fishing in freshwater, wooden hooks (or gorges with three ends) have been in regular use right up to modern times. The advantage is that the baited wooden hooks float high enough above the bottom so that snails cannot get hold of the bait.

It should also be mentioned that man throughout the ages has been clever in finding natural hooks in addition to the wooden ones. The Indians, for example, often used the beak of an eagle or the claw of a hawk.

The most typical Stone Age hook was made of bone, which, like wood, seldom survives through the ages except under very favorable conditions; calcareous soil is needed, for if there isn't enough lime in the soil, the calcium in the bone will crumble to dust.

Where, then, is one to look for bones preserved from the Stone Age? The best finds have been made near the sea, in the so-called "kitchen dunghills," where the Stone Age settlers deposited their lime-filled garbage, such as fish, shellfish and the bones of animals. Here, in layers of oyster shells, mussels, snails and the like, you would come across well-preserved bone tools such as harpoon heads and fishhooks.



Wooden fish hooks. First from the left is a wooden hook from Russia; next an Indian halibut hook from Alaska; third, a Finnish hook reinforced by lasking; and last a wooden shank with a bone point from Sakhalin by the Okhotsk Sea.

Fine implements of bone have also been found far away from the sea—most often in ancient hunting grounds. In the distant past, animals were killed by means of organized, collective hunting. They were ringed in and killed with spears, stones, or harpoons, or they were driven into pitfalls or over the face of a cliff. This explains a number of mass graves of animals that have been discovered in recent times, filled with bones of deer, bison, oxen, or wild horses.

A find in Czechoslovakia—in Predmosti, Moravia—included the bones of more than a thousand mammoths. It was at this grave, claims Czechoslovakian scientist Dr. J. Jelinek, that the oldest fishhook has been unearthed. The age of the hook might approach 20,000 years; i.e., when the whole of Northern Europe was covered by ice. It was also during this period that the inhabitants of the famous caverns in Spain and southern France decorated their walls with fishing motifs.

The Stone Age man had tools good enough to make nicely shaped fishhooks. He could even make hooks out of a piece of stone, beginning with a bored hole. Perhaps this process partly explains why so many of the bone hooks found are roundish in shape, with the bend and the point nearly forming a circle. That common form may have other explanations as well. It took a long time to shape a good hook, and with the point curved inward, the precious hook would not so easily be lost if caught at the bottom. It is also interesting to note that modern scientific experiments have recorded better catches with inward-bent points under several conditions.

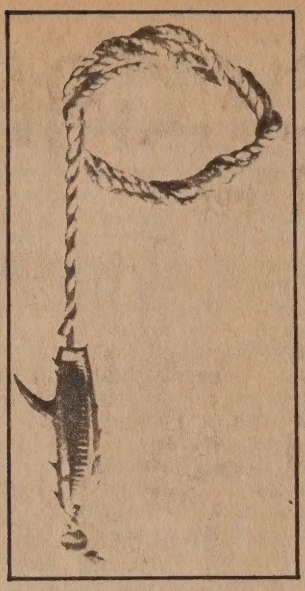
Except for the common circular shape, there is a confusing diversity of details in the Stone Age hooks. Grooves, holes and barbs can be found all over the hooks, with barbs sometimes located on the outer side of the bend and holes sometimes bored underneath the bend. Probably some barbs were designed to hold the bait, rather than for better catching.

There is also an astonishing diversity in the materials chosen for Stone Age hooks. The Stone Age man was able to cut the bone of a deer into narrow round pieces by sawing, or make fishhooks from the shells of oysters, mussels, and tortoise. Bone hooks could be made from the fang of a bear, the tooth of a whale, or the horn of a reindeer. The most astonishing thing to me is that, despite the materials used, Stone Age men shaped their hooks in about the same way whether they lived in Japan or Switzerland.

The earliest revolution in hook-making came with man's first use of metals. A bone hook would break easily unless it was rather thick, but with metals, one could reduce the diameter to a minimum, and it required a comparatively small effort to shape the hook with exactness. The oldest known fishhook of metal seems to be one discovered near Ur in Mesopotamia, the supposed birthplace of Abraham. It is made of copper and dates from about 2600 B.C.

Copper, however, is far too soft a metal; with tin added, one could make much stronger hooks of bronze. As time passed, bronze hooks in the Middle East were shaped so cleverly that some could rival hooks of our own time. In the British Museum, London, you can admire a few of them. One is a nicely-shaped hook found at Rhodos which is ringed and has a neat barb; it dates from about 1400 B.C., i.e., from the time of King Agamemnon and the Mycenean civilization. Even more perfect bronze hooks are to be seen in the museums of Pompeii and Herculaneum—wonderful pieces of handicraft preserved by the lava of the volcano Vesuvius in western Italy.

Good bronze fishhooks were precious. Along the ancient caravan routes, hooks were often used as money for barter. In some places coins could take the shape of fishhooks without ever being used for fishing. In Ceylon "silver hook" was another word for coin. Less precious were the hooks of iron. Iron fishhooks were larger and more irregular in shape. But iron rusts, and it would be a long time before steel hooks would dominate the



This natural fish hook was made from a portion of the leg of an insect, Eurycantha latro. *The unusually strong leg of the male makes a ready-made hook. (Photo from W. Radcliffe,* Fishing from the Earliest Times, *New York, 1969)*

market.

During the late Middle Ages there must have been a large number of professional hook-makers around, but, curiously enough, the first literature on angling dealt with how to make one's own fishhooks. It seems that angling has always been a passion because as soon as the art of printing was invented and the first almanacs and Bibles had been published, angling literature began to flow.

The first complete discussion of angling, Dame Juliana Berner's "Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle," was printed in London in 1496 (part of the manuscript was written half a century earlier). Here the author explains how to make hooks. You buy needles: darning needles for small fish, embroidery needles for larger fish, tailor's and shoemaker's needles for the still bigger fish. Then you learn how to soften the needles, how to make a barb and how to temper the steel by three times heating until red hot. The best steel needles were said to come from Milan in Italy and Toledo in Spain. Not until 1653, when Izaac Walton's **The Compleat Angler** was printed did we learn that it is not advisable to make hooks oneself. Mr. Walton recommends that his readers go to Shoe Lane in London, where Charles Kirby is "the most exact and best Hook-maker this Nation affords."

We thus understand that some of the well-known modern types of fishhooks are named after people. Mr. Kirby lived in London, Mr. Sproat in Ableside; but most often the names of fishhooks derive from places—like Dublin, Limerick, Carlisle, Kendal, Harwich, Aberdeen.

The first revolution in hook-making was when man began to make hooks of metal; the next and still more decisive revolution came when handicraft was displaced by industry during the last century.

When I, some six years ago, started my studies of the history of the fishhook, it was at the request of the makers of Mustad hooks. There are interesting things to tell about that firm's development since its first fully automatic hook machine was put into use a hundred years ago. The working principle of that machine, invented in Norway, is still the same today and has been kept a secret through all these years.

I don't think there is much mystery involved in the amazing growth of the Mustad factory, however, which is the world's largest. During the early years, Mr. Hans Mustad, the owner, was enterprising enough to engage English hook-makers—a dozen or so—each of them specialists in the different methods of hook-making. Mr. Mustad's advantage, I think, was that the many hook factories in England had to compete among themselves in order to gain the world market. But there are also other explanations of the Mustad success, including their general instructions to salesmen all over the world, which were that they should not first of all recommend Mustad hooks; rather they should send home to Norway the types of hooks that were favored by the local fishermen. This principle of marketing led to the incredible number of different hook types that became a Mustad feature. Mustad catalogues have contained up to 60,000 hooks, each of them different in either size, color, material or shape. Including rejected experimental hooks, the total number of different hooks produced by Mustad is claimed to be over 100,000.

Such a figure sounds unreasonable, but remember that there are many different kinds of fish, about 22,000 according to well-known international scientists. As each of these fish bites in its own way, there should be at least as many types of hooks as there are species of fish. There are endless demands for variety!

★COMING SOON★

The Case for a Saltwater License

Don't miss this series of articles starting in the March 6 issue of L.I.F. which will be on a topic that concerns all sportfishermen—the continuing controversy over the implementation of a saltwater license. Don't miss it!

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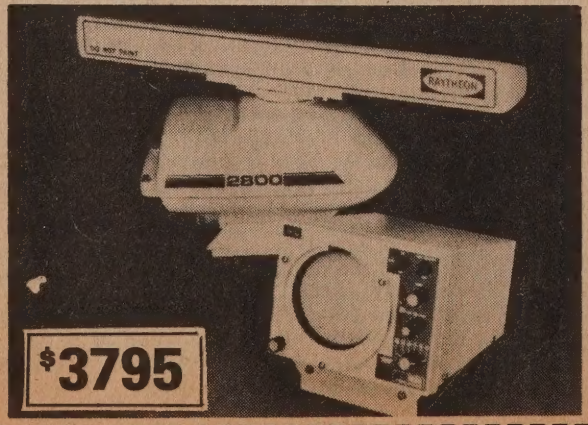

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HOW-TO SPECIAL—

LOW COST ORGANIZER

by Skip Fleet

If you're anything like most of the surf fishermen I know, you probably have a pretty serious investment in your equipment. In fact, I'll bet you own enough lures, plugs, and other assorted paraphernalia to open a tackle shop of your own. The trouble is that far too many of us store all this expensive gear in all manner of disarray. If you've ever seen the dashboard of my truck during the height of the season, you know exactly what I mean. There's usually so much stuff there, it's a wonder I can see out of the windshield.

For far too long my tackle storage situation down in the basement wasn't much better. Oh sure, the rods were put away fairly neatly on their wall racks and my waders were always carefully set to dry on their hanger. My surf bag usually managed to find its way back onto a nail hastily driven into a rafter, and several pails of plugs sat ready nearby. Not bad. So what's the problem, you ask? All of the back-up gear—that's where the problem was to be found.

Plugs of every size, shape, color, and description were packed in a multitude of boxes, as were my arsenal of leadheads, tin squids, hooks, bottom rigs, spare parts, and repair equipment. Then there were the numerous spools of line, wire leader material, snaps, swivels, etc. In short, I had everything I needed in order to play this surf fishing "game," but Heaven help me if and when I ever had to put my hands on something in particular in a hurry.

Now I've never been known for my abilities as a carpenter; in fact, several close friends have doubts that I can hammer a nail in straight without some kind of outside assistance. But no matter. I was bound and determined to organize all that tackle clutter, and with little or no cash outlay to boot. Classy looks, structural soundness, and all that sort of stuff were not of any consequence. I was simply looking for a functional shelf unit to put up on the basement wall.

I had some rough cut ledger board lying around, so that became the basis of my construction plans. Ledger board is a rough cut board about five-eighths to three-quarter inches thick and about six to eight inches in width. It's quite a bit cheaper than the more typical pine shelving material, yet it serves the same purpose very handily. The dimensions of my shelf unit were more a function of the wood I had at hand rather any specific need—but I must confess they've worked out well.

Just a few minutes work will result in a handy shelf unit that will do wonders to consolidate much of your surf fishing gear.

The upright pieces were a shade over thirty-six inches long, while the shelves themselves wound up at approximately thirty-nine inches in length. These were simply nailed together with the shelf pieces resting inside of the uprights. The latter were then nailed onto the exposed ceiling beams overhead. An engineer or an accomplished carpenter would surely shake his head in disgust or dismay over my construction method, but after several years of service, it is still intact.

The two shelves were spaced about ten inches apart; while a length of wood dowel was added through holes drilled about eighteen inches above the upper shelf. The latter item was added to suspend at least a portion of my ever-growing supply of outsized bass plugs. It had sagged a bit after awhile; so as you can see in the photo, a hunk of sixty pound mono came to the rescue as a center support.

The lower portion of the photo also shows a good many plugs suspended from the edge of another add-on shelf. This was a plastic point-of-purchase shelf unit for Vaseline brand baby products scrounged up from a trash heap. It is fastened to the bottom shelf with a couple of small metal clamps. If you know somebody who owns or operates a retail store you can probably come up with a few similar units after awhile, especially if you swap them for a few fresh fillets.

Small nails, screw eyes, cup hooks, etc., have been added to the basic wooden structure to handle everything from wire leaders, snag hook assemblies, odd-ball plugs and lures, and more. Recycled plastic and cardboard boxes hold nearly every type of tackle item imaginable. Best of all, my back-up gear is all in one general area thanks to this feeble wall rack. I still can't find everything I want without digging around a bit, but at least I know where to start looking nowadays.

Your needs and wants are apt to be far different from mine, or then again, maybe they're very similar. In either case, don't let the winter slip by without getting your equipment in order. A handful of hours before or after a Sunday football, hockey, or basketball game will be all you'll need to put a similar shelf unit together. Just make it big enough, because you'll be amazed how fast you fill it to overflowing. Give it a try. If I can do it, you can do it!

CANYON THOUGHTS

by Bob Orrok

The Canyons off the Coast of Jersey have always been there. But, it wasn't that many years ago that boats were built that could run out to the shelf and explore the unknown. Fast, seaworthy boats started running the Canyon in search of white marlin action. Reports of a big blue marlin sighted maybe once a year, was exciting and inviting. A tuna or two and some dolphin would usually find the skip-baits and be boated.

A very select group of boats were able to make the Canyon run, a couple of times a season. Things have changed. Now, there are large schools of true albacore, yellowfin tuna, big-eye tuna that make the average trip worth the ride. In fact, the past few years, some truly big blue marlin are hooked. Also, with the new "Light Stick" method of night fishing, many swordfish are being boated.

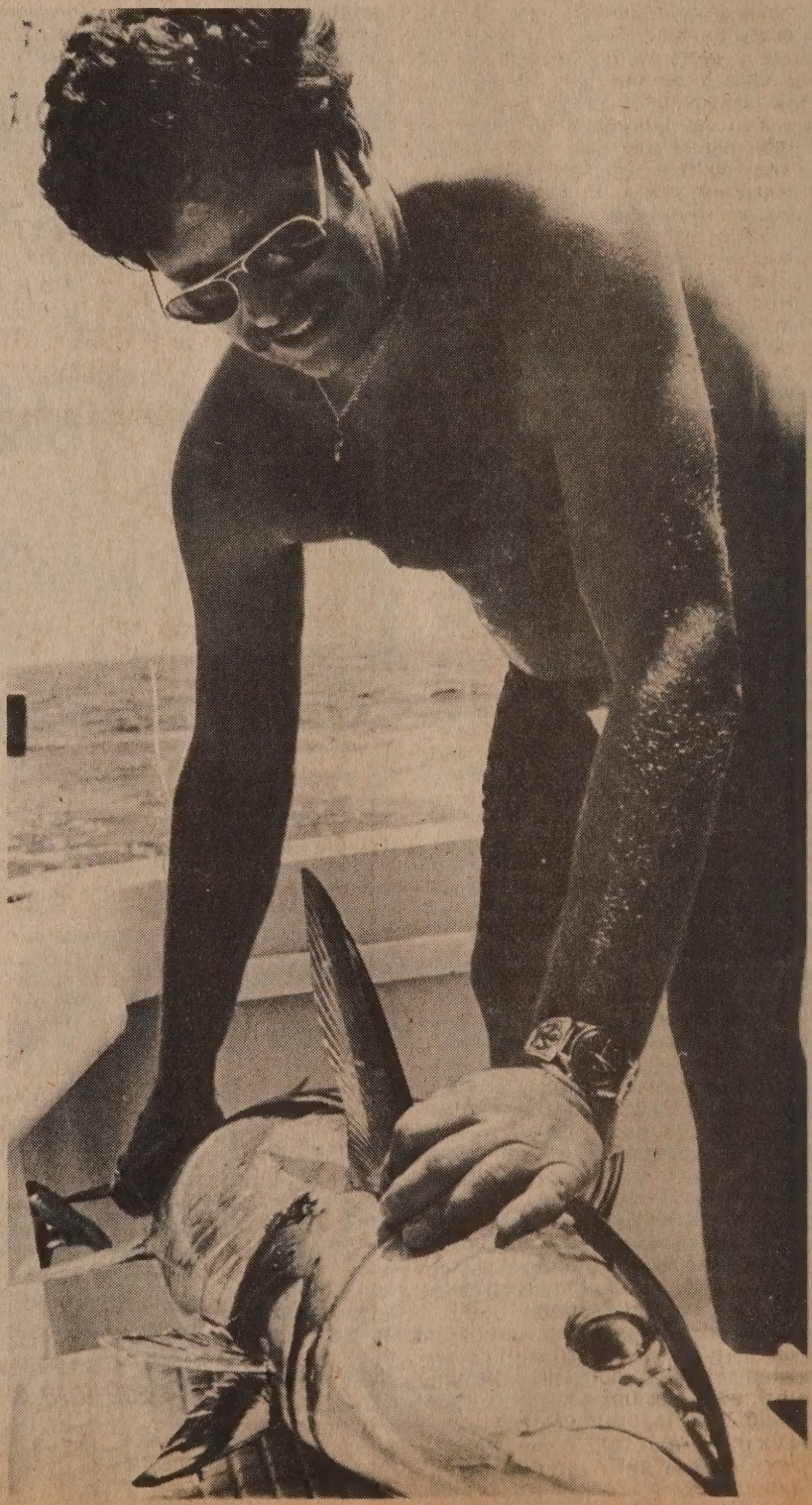
It all adds up to fantastic fishing. Boats returning from Canyon trips are loaded with an assortment of tuna and more often than not, a marlin or two.

Boats that stay overnight fishing for swords, have received a fair degree of success with those tough, great eating billfish. All that action and the stories of great catches has created a magic kind of a magnet that pulls fishermen offshore to get in on the great big game action that the Canyons offer.

To want a piece of that kind of action is only human, especially if you're eating your heart out every time you hear a "Canyon catch" report. However, we see a trend developing that scares the daylights out of me. I've been fishing the Hudson Canyon on and off for twenty years and know just how big a piece of water lays between the safety of Manasquan Inlet and the lip of the Hudson Canyon, which is seventy-eight miles.

One trend is for boats to leave the inlet with plastic gas containers strapped down all over the boat, because the built-in tanks don't hold enough gas to make a round trip, let alone figure any trolling once they get there. To me, they are like floating bombs.

Another thing that scares me is the size of some of the boats that are "making the run." True, a well planned trip with a running mate and perfect weather, isn't all that bad, but it's like Russian Roulette. And the sad thing is that after completing a safe round trip, these small boat owners think they have it



In haste to catch a trophy tuna, anglers must still use common sense. There's a lot of water between the beach and the Canyon.

made and can't wait to do it again. They're playing with a big tough set of odds, because of lack of respect fo for the ocean. We use the word "respect," not fear.

I don't know if it's the great fishing, the excitement of playing with the odds or the macho that makes these new fishermen want to make the long run. We will say here and now, while it's winter and you have time to think it over, that it's crazy thinking. Also, it's not fair to the anglers who ride with you on such a hazardous trip, because they don't know all the variables.

You can't break that many common sense rules and keep getting away with it. No matter how good you think your boat is or how brave you think you are, it doesn't add up.

Let's just take a few cases that happened in the past few years. First of all, the boats involved were from twenty-eight to forty-five feet in length, which is big enough, unless they get caught offshore with a change in the weather for the worst.

In one case, the weather changed and most of the Canyon boats headed for home as fast as they could, only it wasn't fast enough. The seas built up after being pushed into a frenzy by high winds from the northwest. To make time was out of the question, so they just headed into the seas and fought for every inch that would bring them closer to the Manasquan Inlet and safety.

Fourteen hours of pounding through crashing waves, the boats returned to the dock. The boats looked like they were in the Normandy Invasion. The anglers suffered from broken fingers and ribs. The exhaustion and look in their eyes was as if they had "looked the devil right in the eye." They were so relieved to know they made it, but the fear of how close they had come to not making it, wasn't realized until the next day. This, incidentally, was on a big, seaworthy thirty-eight footer.

On a different date, it got so rough a captain was thrown off his feet and knocked unconcious. The boat was pitching so bad the anchor broke loose and pierced a spare gas bladder that was on the foredeck. Just stop and think about their plight. It's enough to give you the chills. By the hand of God, they made it back—somehow.

Think about a boat that is carrying three hundred gallons of gas aboard. It takes a little over two hundred gallons to make the round trip. Now think about drifting at night for swordfish with a current pushing up offshore along with a stiff westerly wind. How far out will it be when the sun comes up?

Let's just enumerate slightly. During the night, you use the engines to fight a swordfish for a couple of hours. Then, towards dawn, you hook a big tuna and the engines run for a couple of more hours. By the time you boat your fish, you could be one hundred twenty miles away from home and darn low on gas. Don't think all this can't happen, because it did happen to someone we know very well.

Think about running into a heavy fog...when you turn your Loran on, it doesn't work. Think about that situation...

Visualize running into bad weather with lightning. You turn for home and one engine catches on fire. While you're fighting the fire, lightning hits your antenna and blows your radio apart. Don't say it can't happen—because it has.

We know one boat owner who has a single engine, twenty-six foot boat who is installing Loran this winter, because he wants to fish the Canyon next summer. I only worry about the people who go with him, because they can't have any idea of what they may be getting into.

Another angler we know just bought a new twenty-six foot boat, loaded with electronic gear. He's planning on fishing the Canyon. I asked him how fast the boat is and he said, "It's not fast, but I have a lot of range." Next, we asked if he had ever been to the Canyon and his answer was "no." Trying to be diplomatic, we said, "If you have to go, be sure not to try it alone." He answered, "Don't worry. I have a

(Continued on page 32.)

BRAND NEW CHARTERBOAT AT MONTAUK

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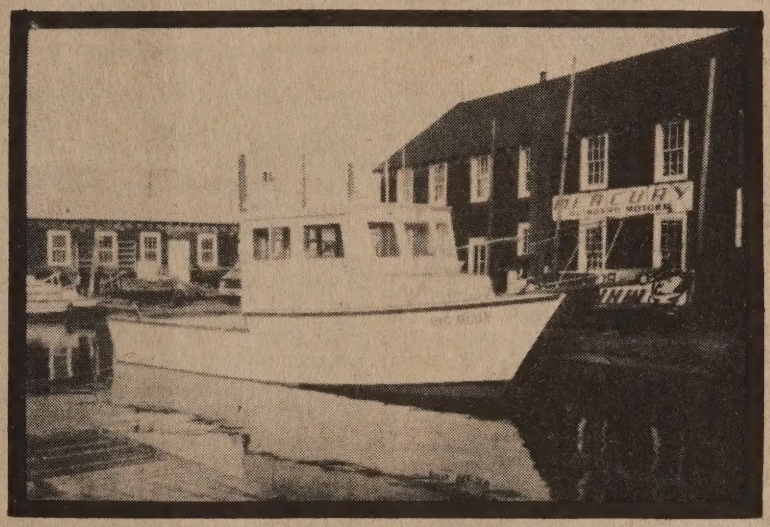

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TACKLE DOCTOR

Questions answered by
Doc Lee Niboraes
of the Mayco Clinic

I would like to ask you something about coloring your own latex tubing. I have no trouble dying the tubing dark red, green or purple, but I cannot get the nice shiny, or bright red color that some manufacturers get on their tubes. Can you enlighten me on this subject?
Joseph Dolida, Bound Brook.

The bright red tubing is available only from the manufacturers of the latex tubing. It isn't dyed, but is a coating applied when the tubing is extruded. You can purchase the tubing in bulk lengths from most any tackle shop.

Many other colors of tubing such as white, yellow and the bright green are made the same way and can only be bought already coated, not dyed.

*****

What is the best way to mark mono line for trolling? I have used nail polish, magic markers, elastic bands and dental floss. All of them either wore off, or sooner or later came loose and slid along the line. What do you recommend? C. Vohden
East Brunswick.

Gladding still sells a monofilament line that is color coded every few yards. I don't recall the exact markings, but they are of equal length and you will have no trouble calculating the distance of line you pay out while trolling.

I have seen walleye fishermen in Canada use the simple blood knot at equal intervals along a line as another means of marking wire, and have heard of musky trollers in New York's Finger Lakes using the same method. They fish at night and can't see a visible mark preferring to feel the knot as it passes through fingers to determine the length of line out.

The blood knot is about 98% strong. If you wanted to take the time to tie them, a series of Bimini knots spliced as interlocking loops would give you 100% line strength.

*****

The recent rod building series in The Fisherman was good, but I want to tell you that epoxy finish does yellow. I have three rods to prove it!
Earnest Pauli, Warren, N.J..

Although some epoxy finishes may have a slight yellow or amber color in one or both of the two part mix, when applied to a fishing rod, the coating is so thin as to be virtually clear.

The finish will appear to yellow only if you have used a color preserver on the wraps before applying the epoxy coating. It is the color preserver that is actually yellowing, not the epoxy. To prevent this, many rod builders are using only the Gudebrod NCP (stands for No Color Preserver) threads. Since they require no color preserver, there is nothing to yellow.

*****

I am a subscriber of your fine magazine and would like to know where I can aquire lead to make sinkers. I was given a lead melting pot for a gift and would like to try my hand at it. F. Nowicki, Old Bridge

Lead now costs about sixty to seventy cents per pound, at scrap yards and junk yards. You can also collect lead from tire dealers who discard the old wheel weights used to balance tires.

You can also purchase lead at some plumbing supply houses, but the cost may be much higher than at a scrap yard.

I know many anglers who save old bucktail heads, sinkers, trolling weights, head weights from banana lures and any other lure that may contain lead, until they have enough to cast a few sinkers.

*****

I've been using Elmer's Glue to secure my foam grips to all my rods that I've built in the last two years. A friend of mine says they should be epoxied in place because the Elmer's will dissolve in water. Is this so, and how can I re-glue without removing the grips from the rod? B. Estes, Wilmington.

Elmer's is a water soluble glue while wet. Once dry, it is completely waterproof and you should have no problem with the grips ever coming loose.

*****

Several times in the Tackle Doctor you have advocated spraying reels with either CRC or WD-40 to prevent saltwater corrosion. However, you should also advise your readers that these oils will destroy most fishing lines and cause a loss of line strength. You probably won't print this, but I did want to tell you about this anyhow. R. Bevans, N.Y.

Someone has been feeding you the wrong information! Neither of these spray oils will harm monofilament lines, dacron or braided nylon lines. In fact, it helps to keep them soft and limp. It should be obvious that we do not advocate soaking the lines in oil, which, although it would not harm the line would make for some sloppy fishing. It is possible that CRC or WD-40 might harm certain fly lines, but then we've never told anyone to spray fly reels with these oils.

Why wouldn't we answer you? When right, we'll take the bow; when wrong, we'll take the lumps.

*****

Can you direct me to any companies that distribute a floating bait casting line? R. DeBlois, Trenton, NJ

When brand new and dry, most of the dacron lines will float, yet begin to sink at a slow rate after being used and getting wet. You can dress the line—about the last 60 feet is fine, with fly line dressing which should keep the line buoyant for several days. You will need to re-dress the line after several days of fishing.

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FISHING REPORTS

MONTAUK

Bunny at the **Viking Star Office** tells us that the fishing has improved over last week since the gillnet boats have moved out at the Block Island grounds. Catches have bounced back once again to the tune of 6 bass 12 cod per man in the 5 to 12 lb. range with pool fish running into the 30s every trip. There is also a scattering of black fish and pollack mixed in. This is all on bait. Reports from Capt. Paul Forsberg fishing the **Viking Starship** at the dry tortugas out of Key West is still having very good fishing and good numbers of reservations from his followers up here.

CAPTREE

Captain George Tweedy reported that the rod and reel fishing was not very good on the weekend due to the strong winds and cold weather. There were some good days during the week. On Wednesday, 13 anglers took 29 cod ranging from 18-35 lbs. Bill Pleum of Lindenhurst was high hook with 6 fish to 35 lbs. Best action has been south of Fire Island in 110' of water and the Captain said that the codfishing this year is 100 percent better than last year.

FREEPORT

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** reported that fishing was tough in the high winds on the weekend, but anglers still made out okay. On Saturday the 17 fishermen aboard took 20 nice sized cod and on Sunday, 15 fish were taken in the 20-25 lb. class. Richie said he had a 57 lber during the week, and the action seems much better this year than it was last. Richie also noted that the best action seems to be southeast of Jones Inlet about 18 miles, which is only an hour and a half run from the dock.

Captain Joe Long of the charter boat **Nite Owl** said that on Thursday he went fishing on the "Misty III' and they caught 9 cod up to 25 lbs. despite the wind and cold. Four of the fish were caught on hook and line and the other five were caught on an experimental setline that George is testing out. This action was 18 miles, 160° out of the inlet in 110' of water.

During the week that just passed, your reporter received a call from Al Grover, king of Woodcleft Canal and

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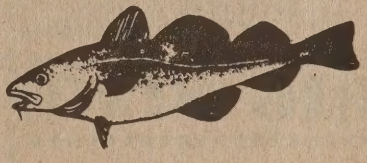

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PARTY BOATS

(Continued from page 12.)

resistance. Big-fish pools add spice to the day's fishing. I know the big question often entering the novice's mind when the mate collects for the pool is: should I, or shouldn't I? The decision, of course, is the fisherman's, and he shouldn't be goaded into entering if he desires not to. But let me tell you a little story.

The largest fluke I ever saw caught on a hook weighed a shade over nineteen pounds. It was taken by a first-time angler: a lady who was not in the pool because her husband had foolishly decided she didn't stand a chance against the "sharpshooters" on board. This happened over forty-five years ago, but I clearly recall the incident because I was the mate who collected for that pool. I often wonder how long it took that poor guy to live it down—if ever. Be guided accordingly.

Which party boat for the beginner? It depends on many things, the most important being the kind of fishing most enjoyed. What may be a "lucky" boat for some, may not be for others. I won't deny that some boats seem to be "luckier" for some fishermen. (There's more to it than that, of course.)

When the beginner feels he's found a boat on which he is comfortable, he should stick with it and become one of the "regulars." He'll catch fish, find congenial companionship, make a lot of friends and eventually earn that coveted title of "master fisherman."

It's the easiest and best way.

Al told me he had just taken a huge cod on a setline along with roughly 2,000 additional pounds of cod. Al, his wife and a buddy had been out on one of his 26' Grover-built's fishing the southeast grounds roughly 7 miles out fishing 110-120' of water. I went down to see this fish the next day. This brute hit the scale at 87 lbs. the previous evening when it was brought back in, but had lost 5 lbs. in moisture by the following afternoon. Even so, this was a huge fish by anyone's standards. This huge cod was on display at the Al Grover Marine Base exhibit in the lobby at the Long Island Boat Show and will be there through the last day of the show, February 24. Al said that there were loads of other big cod caught on the same setline and that the area is holding good numbers of cod.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Jim of the new **Amberjack V** told us that he tried to sail on Sunday, but had to turn back due to the high winds and heavy seas. Big whiting and ling are still being taken but no cod are being caught on rod and reel. The captain noted that the recent strong moon tides and cold water coming from the Hudson River has been putting a damper on the fishing recently. But it won't be long before the flounder start, so things are looking up.

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In just two short years, the World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition has become known among area sportsmen as "the world's fair of sport fishing," and justly so. It's the biggest display of tackle ever to hit this area and it may even be the biggest on the whole East Coast. The third annual show opens Wednesday, February 27 at the Rockland Community College Field House in Suffern, New York, and this year there are more saltwater tackle exhibits than ever, according to show director Paul Fuller. The show will run through Sunday, March 2.

With more than 80 tackle manufacturers exhibiting their complete lines of both fresh and salt water equipment, there's sure to be a good variety of gear to interest blue water sportsmen. To name just a few, Daiwa will be showing the entire Sealine series of matched rods and reels with an outfit to handle all saltwater game fish, and the new Shimano Triton series is certain to please the most discriminating saltwater purist.

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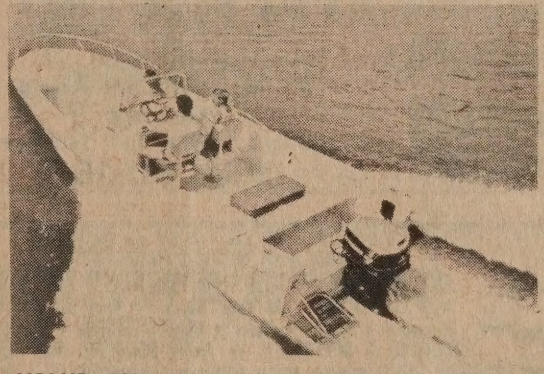

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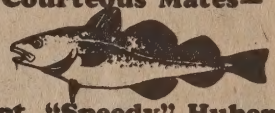

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There's an outstanding lineup of marine exhibits: Olsen Marine of Stratford, Connecticut, will show Skeeter Bass Boats and Evinrude motors. Baker Marine from Lake Wallenpaupack, Pennsylvania, will have an impressive lineup of Ranger, Hydra-Sports and Sea Nymph bass boats, plus Johnson motors. The Bait Shop from Rowayton, Connecticut will have a fully rigged Mako fishing machine on display, and Hydra-Sport will also be showing their Striper Special.

Among many sportmen's organizations exhibiting will be Stripers Unlimited and the Salty Fly Rodders, both ready to talk saltwater fishing.

A unique feature of the World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition each year is the comprehensive fishing clinics, where you can learn from national and local experts to improve your fishing. Three programs this year are specifically for saltwater sportsmen. At 8PM on Thursday, February 28, Vic Galgano will present a wire line trolling clinic. On Saturday, March 1, at 1:30 p.m., **New Jersey Fisherman** editor Pete Barrett will talk shark fishing, and on Sunday, March 2, at 4:30 p.m., outdoor writers Fred Luks and Ted Keatley will cover Long Island Sound. If these guys can't help you catch more fish, nobody can!

Hours of the Expo are 4-10PM on Wednesday, February 27 and the same on Thursday, February 28. On Friday, February 29, it's open from 2-10PM. On Saturday, March 1, doors open at 11AM and close at 9PM, and on Sunday, March 2, the show is open from 11AM-7PM. Adults get in for $3.50 and children under 12 are admitted for $1.50. There's acres and acres of free parking, and it's easy to get to, right off Exit 14B (Airmont Road) on the N.Y. Thruway (I-87). From New Jersey, take the Garden State Parkway to the Thruway and go just one more exit North (14B) and follow signs to Rockland Community College. From the East, take the Tappan Zee Bridge and I-87 to Exit 14B. From the North and West, just take I-87 to Exit 14B.

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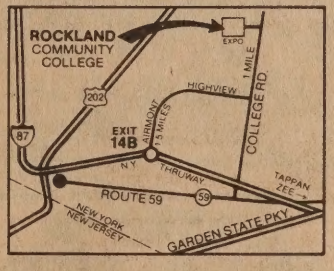

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HUDSON CANYON

(Continued from page 25.)

friend with a twenty-six footer, who will run with me. Only, his boat will only do eighteen knots."

Picture two, twenty-six foot boats, seventy miles offshore, creeping along like two corks in a wild, rough ocean. They have to run out of fuel, because they can't carry enough to run for twenty hours to get home. And don't think for a minute a twenty hour ride home is impossible, because it has happened...

I'm not trying to say you can't run to the Canyon unless you have a fifty foot boat under you. I'm only trying to make some boat owners realize the dangers involved when you make the long run.

A good seaworthy boat with enough range and speed will be just fine as long as the equipment and engines are in top-notch condition and the owner is a good seaman who will not lose his cool in case of trouble.

Personally, I'd rather read or hear about a good catch and a safe trip, instead of hearing about the four guys who ran into trouble and "cashed in their chips."

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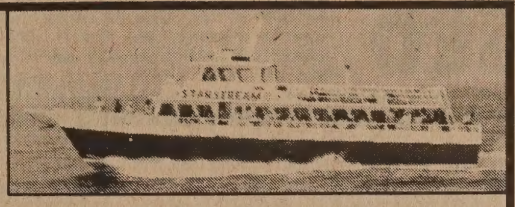
FISH FREEPORT'S ULTRA-FINEST LARGEST, FASTEST CAPTAIN JACK'S BEAUTIFUL, NEW 85' SUPERCRUISER



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BRAND NEW SISTER-SHIP TO BLUE FIN II WILL BE READY FOR SPRING SAILING. ★ FAST ★ COMFORTABLE ★ all Safety Equipment • Accom. to 130 Pass. ★ BOOKING GRADUATION PARTIES NOW ★

WIN A DINNER FOR 2 AT "THE SCHOONER"

Guess Crossing Time Of New *Blue Fin III* From Barnegat Inlet To Jones Inlet.

RULES: NO EMPLOYEES OR RELATIVES OF BLUE FIN FLEET MAY ENTER. CONTEST ENDS MARCH 10. POSTAL CARD ENTRIES SHOULD BE SEND TO: BLUE FIN FLEET — 27-10 200 St., BAYSIDE, N.Y. 11360

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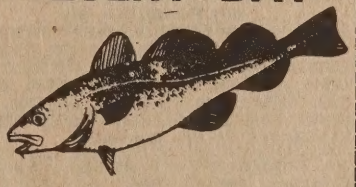

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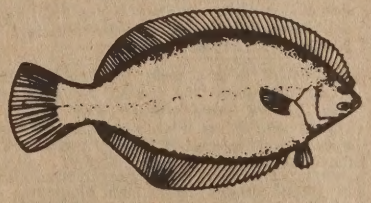

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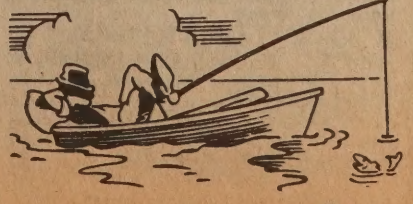

FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED

To place an ad in *THE FISHERMAN'S* classified section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read along with your check or M.O. for the full amount. Rates for non-subscribers are 30-cents per word with a 15 word ($4.50) minimum. Subscribers to *The Fisherman* receive a *Fifty-percent DISCOUNT* if they include the number off their subscription label. Classified rates for subscribers are: 15-cents per word with a 15 word ($2.25) minimum. *Discounts for extended runs:* 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times,15%. To run a photo with ad, non-subscribers add $10, subscribers $5.

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1976 WELCRAFT V20, 115 h.p. Mercury Engine, 20 hours; outriggers, VHF, marine telephone; 60 gal. gas tank; 2 batteries. Live baitwell, depth recorder. Full mooring canvas; cover. Charles Mongelli. 212-948-7846. $7500.

30' WOODEN LAPSTRAKE Boat, the kind they don't build anymore. Built like a tank. Ribs 6" on center. Full keel and Flybridge; eight cylinder Palmer engine with only 400 hrs. Huge insulated fish box, tiller bar, dual batteries. Cabin sleeps 2. Large cockpit with two fighting chairs. Excellent seaworthy boat for sportfishing or commercial fishing; for lobsters, light dragging, pinhookers, etc. Call Scott at 516-668-9389. $4000.

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1979 EVINRUDES 1979
2-$248; 4-$360; 6-$500; 9.9-$650; 15-$750; 25-$898; 35-$998; 50-$1200; 55-$1450; 70-$1650; 85-$1775; 100-$1840; 115-$1900; 140-$2000; 150-$2516; 175-$2596; 200-$2696; 235-$2860. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

30' TROJAN SPORT CRUISER 1979 T225 Chryslers, Sendure FWC, Bimini; 4 sided enclosure, saltwater washdown, flush cockpit, Sitex, Modar 440 VHF, rod holders. Loaded with extras. Excellent. $36,500. 212-243-0660.

Al Ristori's Fishing Machine: 1978 MAKO 21/1979 Evinrude 200 w/power trim for sale at end of season. Boat fully equipped and available with or without accessories: VHF and CB Radios; outriggers, downrigger, console cover, etc. Call: 201-334-8059. 516-668-5900.

1978 CRUISER 25', cabin; all Fiberglas. Sleeps 5, plus full camper top; I/O 240 h.p. OMC; white line recorder; ship-to-shore VHF radio; CB. Loaded with extras. Fully winterized with inside storage. Hardly used. READY TO GO. $14,500. Call 516-265-0666.

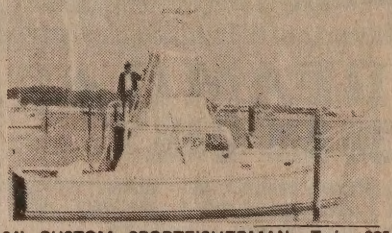
25' CHRIS CRAFT Tournament Fisherman, twin 130 h.p. inboards, tuna tower. Full enclosure; depth recorder; CB; Dytek temp., gauge. Clean. $10,000. Days: 516-732-4060; Eves. and weekends. 516-325-1560.

22' SISU Outboard 115 h.p. 25" shaft Mercury; 2, 28-gal. tanks. Custom built teak combing Navy top. Side curtains; VHF depth recorder. Cox galvanized trailer. Excellent condition. $8000 FIRM. 518-437-1036.

23' 1977 Chris Craft Lancer Sportfisherman (Bought late '78). Fully rigged for trolling & inshore fishing. Inboard. 250 h.p. with 180 hours, nibral Prop. Very economical to run. Custom built teak tackle locker. Sea Isle outriggers, Lee hardware; teak rod racks, 6 Lee & Perko rod holders. Danforth sniffer, Motorola 40 channel CB, Ritchie Compass, Pompanette chairs. Built-in teak-covered fish box; V-bunk filler & full cushions. Complete canvas; 2 battery system. Penn 620 downrigger. Loaded with extras. 516-799-0420.

28' DORSETT - Fiberglas Sportfisherman. Flybridge T.S. 180 Crusders; FWC, Bimini, SS Tanks. Fighting chair; Ross recorder. Top shape. Loaded. 212-680-3857.

19' '72 BARCONE (Boston Whaler type) Fiberglas center console. 1975 115 Merc. outboard; CB; compass. $2800. 516-781-0436.



34' CUSTOM SPORTFISHERMAN. Twin 225 h.p. 1975 Merc Cruisers, FWC. Low hrs. Sailed weekends only. Fully enclosed Flybridge, dual controls. Full tower & pulpit. Pompano fighting chair. Selling fully equipt; everything but tackle, Morrow Loran, Modar VHF, Sitex white line; CB; SeaTemp machine, Raritan (Toilet, electronic), automatic battery charger; and much more. $16,500. Call Capt. Garry. 516-968-8969.

1979 17' 6 AQUASPORT Family Fisherman; 115 h.p. Evinrude; 60 hours. Perfect condition. Navy top, bow rail, compass, bilge pump, tachometer, gauges, rod holders, recording depth finder, VHF. Shoreline galvanized trailer with power winch. $7500. 516-541-8032.

25' 1970 TROJAN. Hardtop inboard cruiser. Fiberglas hull; repowered Aug. '77. Chrysler 250 h.p. Digital D/S, Sitex white line fish recorder, elec. anchor winch; swim platform and ladder. Trim tabs; GPH meter & totalizer, speedometer/odometer; CB; rod holders, etc. Summer slip in Westchester available. Best offer. Buying larger boat. Wkdys—914-686-7147. Eves. 914-937-2631.

17' BOSTON WHALER Sakonnet 1968, 85 Evinrude W/Power tilt, 1973 galvanized Shoreline w/electric winch, new spray cover, mooring cover. Many extras. Mint condition. $2600. 516-628-8005.

1967 CHRIS CRAFT CUTLASS 26 1978 250 h.p. SW-cooled engine. Tiller; stern controls. Anchor + 600' line; compass; CB; VHF; depth recorder. Much more; excl. cond. $7500. 212-347-3852.

1972 27' Silverton, 1976 Crusader Palmer FWC, 300 hrs., 2-1 red gears; trim tabs, outriggers, CB, Depth finder; Sea Temp gauge. Bimini top, 110 Dockside; and much more. Must sell. Mint Cond. $11,000. 277-4529 Eves.

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23' Formula, Deep Vee, 220 h.p. Volvo outdrive; rod holders. Gemtronics white line recorder, port-a-potty and much more. Clean. $4600. 201-367-6135. #11.

29' 1971 OLSEN "SHEARWATER" MINT CONDITION, 255 Merc. inboard (3 years new), Cedar on oak, teak decks. FULLY OUTFITTED. $12,000. 516-678-5746. 516-431-8021.

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TACKLING THE WIRING this year? We can help with terminals, fuse blocks, marine-grade duplex wire in various gauges, cable straps, wire markers, etc., and advice is on the house. HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Highway, Islip. 516-581-0194.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

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BOAT WANTED: Clean 25-30' wood, lobster style preferred or Novi. Must have V bunks. Large cockpit & good tight hull. Price depends on condition. 516-242-3540.

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FISHERMEN'S BELT BUCKLES—Solid pewter. Beautiful antique brass finish. Striper, bluefish, tuna, porgy, fluke/flounder, shark, harpoon head. Really beautiful! $7 each. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

Spring supply of the original "Ballz" semi-natural bait will be ready March 15; mark your calendar so you're not left out. CAPT. BILLY, Box 525, Northport, N.Y. 11768. Anyone can catch fish if they have the "Ballz."

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ROD COMPONENTS—Tremendous inventory; blanks, seats, butts, grips, guides, tops, etc. All name brands. "Lowest possible prices." Free instructions. LON WANSER BAIT & TACKLE, 3818 Merrick Rd., Seaford, N.Y. 11783. 516-785-1138. Open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday until 2:30 p.m.

BEST BAIT: I can get tape or ribbon worms and would like to fish Eastern Long Island for flounder with someone who knows a good spot. Also a limited number of these worms for sale. Call Bob, 212-892-3092.

WANTED: Operator of dependable, seaworthy boat near Fire Island Inlet. Experienced setliners will pay $150/day plus fuel. 516-473-6677. Evenings.

BUILD YOUR OWN CUSTOM FISHING ROD. Save up to 70%. Complete kits available with easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions, will provide you with tackle your friends will envy. Free Catalog. Send postage stamp to: "KITS," Box 525. Northport. N.Y. 11768.

COD KILLER RIGS—A time-proven hi-low rig that helps fill the freezer. Ideal for wrecks on open bottom. Finest materials. All hand-tied. 3 rigs, $3.50. WHITING/LING KILLER RIGS—3 needle sharp Mustad beaks tied in at critical heights on leader to assure best catches. A time-tested rig. Finest materials; all hand-tied. 3 rigs, $4. Send to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

Spencer's Rigs pre-season Special. For information, send S.A.S.E.: SPENCER'S RIGS, 573 East 28th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210.

FREE CATALOG—Hooks, rigs, diamond jigs, bucktails, Bananas, Rebels, umbrella rigs. Tri-Fins, and jelly worms. PLUS a lot more at discount prices. Send to: CUSTOM TACKLE, BOX 38, SEAFORD, NY 11783.

FLOUNDER—Three hook rig. $.99 each; three for $2.50. Check or M.O.: SPENCER'S RIGS, 573 East 28th St., Bklyn, NY 11210.

Bass, blues, bonitas, snappers. The ULTIMATE LURE, in lure fishing, made at home. Easy follow instructions. Send S.A.S.E. + $1.00 to: ULTIMATE LURE, P. O. Box 255, Greenpoint Station, Bklyn., NY 11222.

EVERYTHING for the saltwater fisherman. Quality tackle at lowest prices. Free Catalog. SALT WATER TACKLE BOX, Dept. FG, Falmouth, Mass. 02541.

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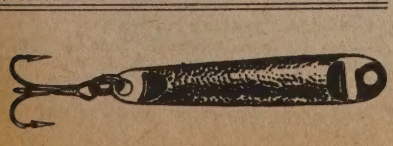

SALTWATER LICENSE

(Continued from page 19.)

not catch and what we are allowed and not allowed to do with them.

The State DEC should not be allowed to license saltwater sport fishing. State waters extend to three miles off the coast; within these three miles of our shore there is wholesale slaughter of spawn-laden weakfish by gillnetters in the Great South Bay; decimation of striped bass spawning grounds in the Hudson River. Mass pollution in many of our harbors, the Hudson and the west end of South Shore continues. Wetlands are constantly abused by dumping and drainage. Clam and mussel beds remain polluted to a disgraceful level. Let the state bureaucrats take care of these problems first and then come talk about a license if we need one. Let them show we 2.3 million fishermen some action.

In the meantime, tell us where all the money goes that **we** pay to state in the form of tax on money **we** spend on boats, fuel, equipment, electronics, bait, tackle, gear, clothing, chum, trailers, etc., etc. How about just the **"road tax"** alone on fuel used in our boats. You don't see any four lane highway to the Mud Hole, do you? Let them use that money for their go nowhere projects for preserving the marine environment. Tell that to the bureaucrats and they'll tell you that under the State Constitution no funds can be earmarked for such a specific use as marine environmental protection without changing the State Constitution. So gents, if they get a license fee there is absolutely no guarantee that this money will be used for the benefit of saltwater fisheries, although by a license, these bureaucrats will have the power they seek to tell us "Sorry pal, from now on the limit is three mackerel OVER 2 lbs. only," or "no blues under 10 lbs." Forget the bass, they **blew** that act ten years ago.

What right do the **State** bureaucrats have to regular migratory, oceanic finfish anyway. Shellfish yes, they don't move and need a lot of control, but finfish are here today, gone tomorrow. A while different ballgame, geographically speaking. The State can't even stop pollution of the clam beds, so how the hell are they going to do anything for **our** finfish?

You let these fishcrats put one toe in the door and before you know it, they'll own the whole damn door. I got 13 years and well over $30,000 sunk into sport and commercial fishing and I'm not going to sit back and let some clown in a leather armchair up in Albany tell me how many and how big a fish I can take on Great Eastern or wherever and have to pay him to do it to boot.

Don't let the bureaucrats become fishcrats. Tell them **no** license. **V. Gartmayer, Shoreham, N.Y.**

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WE WANT YOU AS A CUSTOMER!

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(516) 842-7333

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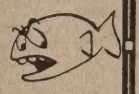

Each year the U.S. produces enough garbage to bury the state of Rhode Island under FOUR FEET of waste.

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Your choice of Tue., Wed. or Thur. Eve, 7:30 PM to 10 PM, 9 wks. *Absolutely no other charges!*

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MODERN MARINERS MANUAL. *The book that can't be imitated!* Used exclusively in my evening classes. Send $14.95 to Capt. Irv Levine, Box 365, Oakdale, New York 11769.

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Designed and taught professionally to prepare you for obtaining your U.S.C.G. license to charter 1—6 & 7 or more passengers including 100 gross tons. This course is also invaluable to every serious boater who wants to improve his/her knowledge and skills.

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Either it's a Boone— or it's an imitation!!!

★PLEASE ALLOW SIX WEEKS FOR DELIVERY OF BOONE TOUTS★

The **Boone TOUT®** as every coastal fisherman knows, tackles just about anything that swims. It has produced catches of over 40 different species. Especially good on weakfish, bluefish and striped bass.

But on days when the big ones are really hitting, we wish our idea had never caught on...

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